PRIVATE EYE

£1

No. 972
Friday
19 March '99

YES, IT'S THE PRINCE OF WALES TANGO!

The Open University

Study for a degree in a way that fits your lifestyle.

You don't have time to stop work or give up your family commitments. But that doesn't mean you want a second rate degree. The Open University gives you the opportunity to get a degree that's worth something and to fit your study around the way you live your life.

The OU has developed its own unique method of study designed for busy people called OU supported open learning. You study in your own time, from exceptional, specially prepared materials and we give you the support to help you succeed. That includes a personal tutor available for advice in person and on the phone and a chance to meet fellow student at tutorials and, on some courses, at a residential school. It's real value for money, and you can pay by instalments.

Did you know?

- The OU is in the top 15% of all UK universities for teaching quality
- 25% of all British MBAs* come from the OU
- Over 30,000 employers have sponsored their staff on OU courses
- 40,000 OU students are online from home
- There are 9 month courses and new diplomas as well as degrees

*AMBA Accredited

Send for your free prospectus now.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA. U99GP

☐ Please send me a copy of the *Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees* prospectus
☐ Please send me a copy of the postgraduate prospectus
☐ Tick here if you have contacted the OU in the past.

Title .....Initials.....Surname .....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel .....Date of Birth ...../...../19.....

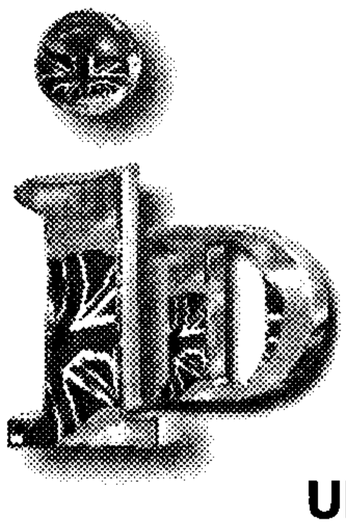
☎ **OU Hotline (24 hours)** 0870 9000 301

Website: www.open.ac.uk/advert/

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

We Know Who You Are

(But don't worry we know everyone in the UK* find them in SECONDS on one easy to use CD ROM)



"Britain's top selling CD ROM Directory"

Pro £199.95
Standard £29.95
10% Off the Standard~
(Prices Shown are SRP Inc VAT. Plus P&P)

UK-Info Disk (Version 3)

- 42 million residential names, addresses & telephone numbers
- **New 1.5 million business telephone numbers**
- Phone number reverse search (**LAST CHANCE** - A ruling by the Data Protection Registrar means that this powerful feature on the Pro, will be withdrawn shortly - **Order Today**)
- **New UK Maps**
- Networkable

FREEPHONE
0800 980 7100
www.bidd.co.uk

* Everyone on the UK electoral role ~ Offer extended to April 6th, 1999

BIDD is a Trading Division of Shops Direct International Ltd.

PRIVATE EYE

SUBSCRIPTIONS ORDER FORM

Mortimer House, 230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
UK: £17 Europe & Eire: £25 Airmail – rest of world: £33

Magazines to:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Please print and use the postcode

I enclose cheque for £..... for a year's subscription (26 issues)
OR
Please charge ACCESS VISA Card Expires: __ / __
Card number:

Cardholder's name and address if different from above

OR why not DIAL A SUB: 0171 228 0425 FAX A SUB: 0171 924 3719
Overseas subscribers please note: payment must be made by International Money Order **or** Bankers Draft in £ Sterling drawn on London **or** ACCESS/VISA

THE BIG NEW GRANTA

TRY IT. IT'S FREE.

We'd like to introduce you to Granta by giving you—FREE—our new issue, 'London: the Lives of the City', with a deeply discounted trial subscription. It includes:

NEW FICTION: Hanif Kureishi, Dale Peck, John Lanchester, Philip Hensher, Helen Simpson.

LONDON MEMOIRS: a life in clothes (Ruth Gershon); a life in pubs (Ian Hamilton).

LITERARY LONDON: a subversive history in the maps of Martin Rowson.

LONDON AS DANGER: Lucretia Stewart's story of a stabbing.

LONDON AT PLAY: a photographic essay on modern Soho by Stephen Gill.

LONDON TRAFFIC: Ian Parker on London drivers—people in the grip of fear.

LONDON AS INSPIRATION: Will Self on his filthiest muse; Ferdinand Dennis on his relationship with the Albert Memorial.

LONDON AVOIDED: Jay Rayner on Dame Shirley Porter's retreat to Israel.

LONDON AS REFUGE (from Nazi Germany and Uganda) in the accounts of Ian Buruma and Albino Ochero-Okello.

LONDON VIEWS: some favourites described by Doris Lessing, Julian Barnes, Howard Hodgkin, Iain Sinclair and Penelope Lively.

PLUS: 'Fishing, Writing and Ted': an appreciation of Ted Hughes by Graham Swift.

With this introductory subscription offer you will get:

- 'London: the Lives of the City' (352 pages, worth £8.99) FREE, plus:
- A year's subscription (4 more quarterly paperback issues worth £8.99 each, featuring the best new fiction, memoir, reportage and photography that Granta can commission, inspire or find) for just £21.95. That's 5 issues in all for £21.95: a saving of over 50% on the cover price. You can cancel the subscription at any time and get a refund for the remaining issues. If you cancel after receiving just 'London', you will get a full refund.

GRANTA 2/3 Hanover Yard, Noel Rd, London N1

FREE ISSUE OFFER! Save 50% on the bookshop price.

❍ I'd like to try Granta, on the terms above ('London', free, with a year's subscription for just £21.95*). If I cancel, I'll get a refund for all remaining issues.

Name and address (this information will not be made available to other organizations):

Postcode Country *

Payment by: ❍ cheque (to 'Granta') ❍ Visa/Amex/Mastercard: Card no /__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/__/

Signature: Expires /__/__/__/__/ C1PEYF

✉ Return to: Granta, 'Freepost' (if in the UK), 2/3 Hanover Yard, Noel Road, London N1 8BE or you can phone/fax credit card orders:
☎ In the UK: **FreeCall 0500 004 033** (phone & fax). Outside the UK: tel 44 171 704 0474, fax 44 171 704 0470

*** The £21.95 rate is for the UK only.** The rate for the rest of Europe is £29.95; for overseas, it's £36.95 (airspeeded delivery).

BIKE IN A BRIEFCASE?

Lovely idea, a decent bike that can be spirited out of a briefcase...

THE QUEENS AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT

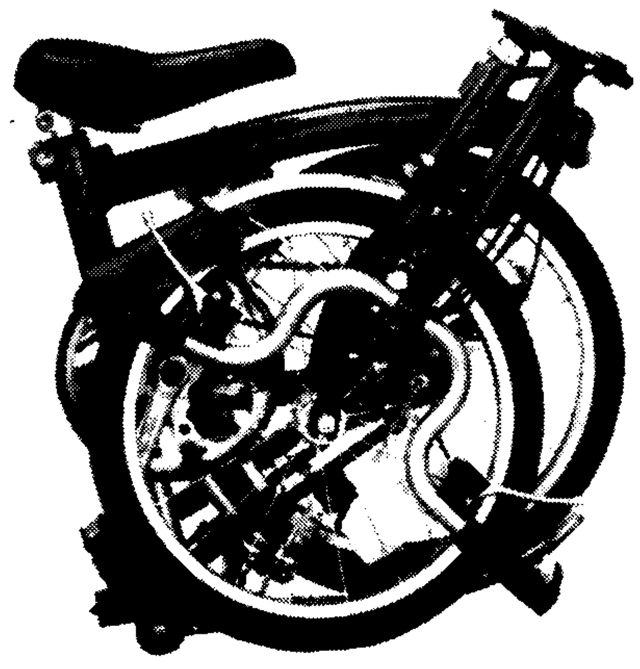
The snag is it doesn't exist: but a pretty close approximation does – the Brompton. It's a proper bike: fast. practical and with lovely handling. Yet it can be transformed in a few seconds into a handy package: not as small as a briefcase, it must be owned, but nonetheless amazingly compact and light.

At last, a folding bike without the handicaps you would normally expect: the Brompton creates no end of new opportunities for travelling about. The design is ingenious, the engineering sound, it's easy to fold, it's fun. The freedom and convenience of biking are yours whenever you wish.

"The Brompton is a delight; one of those rare technical advances that in practice genuinely extend the scope and attractiveness of cycling" **NEW CYCLIST**

"I reckon the Brompton is the best choice for anyone who wants a hassle-free extension to public transport."
CYCLE TOURING AND CAMPAIGNING

"Creates a new range of situations in which bicycling becomes attractive." **FINANCIAL TIMES**



PRICES FROM £407

BROMPTON

For further details, please contact:
BROMPTON BICYCLE Ltd.,
Kew Bridge Distribution Centre,
Lionel Road,
Brentford TW8 9QR.
Tel: 0181 232 8484
Fax: 0181 232 8181
www.bromptonbicycle.co.uk

Gnome

I AM delighted at the news that my son, The Hon. Jolyon Gnome, well known in City circles as a member of the Flaming Pants Syndicate, is rapidly making a name for himself as a "chip off the old block".

Press reports in recent days have shown how Jolyon pulled off a notable financial coup when he was arrested and charged with illicit share dealing in the Swedish stock *Smorgasfrord*.

In fact, Jolyon's brilliant "sting" was based on the plot of one of my own novels *First Among Crooks*.

Now Jolyon is well on the way to establishing himself as a charlatan in his own right. He has even issued his own writ at the tender age of 25.

Whether he wishes to become Lord Mayor of London in his father's footsteps is still open to conjecture but I know my readers will wish him the best of luck in his new career as Assistant Librarian in Ford Open Prison.

E. Strobes
pp Lord Gnome
Archole Investments
c/o The Old Crookery
Grantchester

"At least he's on massage!"

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

£17 per annum. Europe and Eire £25.
Airmail — rest of world £33.
Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Access/Visa.

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS
Mortimer House, 230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
Tel: 0171-228 0588. Fax: 0171-924 3719.
Email: eyesubs@cix.co.uk

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG.
Tel: 0171-437 4017. Fax: 0171-437 0705.
Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

ADVERTISING
Tel: 0171-354 5676.

ABC
CONSUMER PRESS

COLOUR SECTION

JOHN MAJOR, now putting the finishing touches to his memoirs, is in lively form.

Lawyers for his publisher, HarperCollins, are aghast at his description of a senior colleague as "an alcoholic and a serial adulterer". But the former PM insists on keeping the reference, promising that "I can prove it".

Who can he mean? No doubt all will be revealed when the book appears this autumn — a lively antidote to the rival memoirs of his one-time chancellor, dull old Norman Lamont.

● *More publishing: Seth and Pinter 25*

IN a testy response to recent criticism of the BBC in the House of Lords, chairman of the BBC governors Sir Christopher Bland was quoted as saying: "One of the disappointing things about the debate in the Lords was how few programmes were mentioned, and I think that reinforces the fact that politicians, because of the lives they lead, find it difficult to watch television and listen to radio."

And what sort of a life does Sir Christopher lead? He is not only chairman of the BBC governors; he is also chairman of NFC (one of whose subsidiaries has a contract to distribute books for the BBC). He is contracted to work four days a week for the BBC and three days a week (for much more money) at NFC. He's hardly got a moment to watch or listen, poor chap. But just think of his NFC share options — all half million of them.

● *More BBC madness 10*

SUGGESTIONS that Ulster politicians are congenitally unable to cooperate are clearly wide of the mark. A joint committee representing everyone from the Democratic Unionist Party to Sinn Fein has managed to agree unanimously operating arrangements for the proposed devolved assembly.

Reasonably enough the politicians first decided to seek a pay rise and have demanded that the government asks the senior salaries review body to come up with a new figure (even though they haven't actually done any work yet).

Courageously they've voted to increase the assembly's annual operating budget from the £14m suggested by Ulster secretary Mo Mowlam to a more reasonable £37m. Ulster has a population of just 1.6 million. The entire Palace of Westminster governs 58 million people on an annual budget of £348m. Oh, and "resources" will have to be provided to cater for the *400* staff the assembly members need to function properly.

Angst-ridden maverick Unionist MP Bob McCartney thought "the majority of unionist and nationalist voters would be appalled" by the proposals. But given his overwhelming popularity — plus the fact that he doesn't have a seat on the committee — they agreed to send the proposals to Mowlam for consideration anyway.

● *More politics: In The Tearoom 8*

JUST FANCY THAT

"Hampshire's most senior policeman, Sir John Hoddinott, today announced his retirement from the force. He is to step down from his job as chief coonstable in September, marking the end of a 38-year career in the police."

— *The News*, Portsmouth, on line edition.

● *More knackered Knackers 11*

HEALTH secretary Frank Dobson was at his straight-talking best when he appeared on BBC Radio Suffolk earlier this month.

Interviewed on Chris Offerman's breakfast show, Dobbo was asked what his plans were for Suffolk. "Oh dear," he replied. "They told me I was in *Sussex*."

● *More health checks with M.D. 12*

"I HOPE that we do not bring about an amnesty for older men... who take advantage and think that they will get away with it."

So spoke Labour moralist Joe Ashton in the Commons debate over the gay age of consent last July. The 65-year-old MP was referring to 16 to 18 year old homosexuals, rather than 19 to 25 year old Thai prostitutes, but nevertheless, giving a false name and address to police probably made him think he had got away with his own bit of misbehaviour.

Mr Ashton's brothel appearance in Northampton did, however, remain a secret from the press for nearly four months — far longer than, say, Ron Brown's Ugandan activities in 1988.

In the week that he was expelled from the parliamentary Labour party for swinging the ceremonial mace around the Commons, Brown was caught in a palace of Westminster shower room with a female guest, both of them naked. That incident was immediately leaked to the newspapers by two MPs who quickly became known as Labour's "Peeping Toms". One of them was *Daily Star* columnist and MP for Bassetlaw... Joe Ashton.

● *More humbug: Melanie Phillips 7*

CASES TO WATCH

ON 29 March Clifford Norris, 20, is up at Woolwich crown court for "pleas and directions" on charges of unlawful wounding and possession of an offensive weapon, believed to arise from an alleged attack on an Asian cab driver. If Mr Norris pleads not guilty, a date will be set for his trial.

● *PLUS: Footnotes 26*

SNOW JOB

STREET OF SHAME

ON THE eve of the budget Kenneth Clarke, former Tory chancellor, issued a furious protest that Gordon Brown's plans had been comprehensively leaked to the Sunday newspapers by treasury spin-doctors.

"Obviously somebody is doing this for Mr Brown," he raged. "It is absolutely breaking the rules... Chancellors used to be sacked if they briefed people about their budgets." Since the budget statement was actually delivered, however, Clarke has fallen strangely silent.

Could this be because the "leaked Budget secrets" were nothing of the kind? Tom Baldwin, political editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, reported on 7 March that the chancellor had granted middle-class families a reprieve by "backing away from proposals to scrap the married couples' allowance". Rachel Sylvester, political editor of the *Sindie*, was even more confident. "Tony Blair has ruled out Gordon Brown's plan to scrap the married couples' tax allowance in this week's budget," she revealed in a front-page splash, "because he believes it would undermine the government's attempt to emphasise its commitment to the family." Two days later Brown announced the abolition of the married couples' allowance.

The other most common prediction was that Brown would introduce a 10p starting rate of income tax — hardly a great secret, since he had been trailing it for several years. But the big question was when it would start. "A year from now", reported the *Sunday Telegraph*'s economics editor Bill Jamieson. His opposite number at the *Sunday Times*, David Smith, agreed: "The chancellor intends to announce that the 10p starting rate of tax will apply from April next year." And so said everyone else — except the chancellor himself, who then announced that it would take effect immediately.

Kenneth Clarke described the pre-budget stories in Sunday newspapers as "deplorable". Quite right too: but only because they weren't actually leaks at all, merely wild Fleet Street guesswork masquerading as inside information.

WITH a great fanfare of hype, the *Mail on Sunday* publishes a vitriolic two-page attack on the "kindergarten cabinet" surrounding William Hague.

"One of the most devastating blows to Bill Clinton's reputation was the publication of *Primary Colors*," it announces. "Today, many political commentators have focused on William Hague's apparent failure to make an impact on voters... Here, one writer who works with the Hague team discloses its inner workings. Once again the analysis can be all the more biting because it is anonymous..."

Before Hague launches a witch-hunt among his staff, he should pause to recall that the author of *Primary Colors* was not a Clinton insider but a political journalist, Joe Klein. He might also notice, on closer inspection, that the *Mail on Sunday* hatchet-job bears an uncanny stylistic resemblance to the work of Peter Oborne, chief political pundit of the *Express on Sunday*.

Clearly it would be absurd to suggest that Oborne might moonlight in a rival paper, though the fee of £2,000 would be welcome to a man who spends so much of his time in betting shops and expensive restaurants. (Oborne once got so drunk over lunch at Simpson's in the Strand that while stumbling back to the Palace of Westminster he fell into the river Thames — and then had to shuffle damply back to the Strand to buy a new set of clothes.) And it is, of course, pure coincidence that a former member of Hague's team, Mark Fox, has recently joined Oborne at the *Express*. Even so, senior management at the *Express* seem to suspect, most unfairly, that Oborne is indeed Mr Anonymous of the *Mail on Sunday*.

By yet another coincidence, the *MoS* is currently looking for a new political editor. Though Oborne has been striding around the *Express* building for the past week loudly declaring that "I don't want the job", he may soon be grateful for any job he can find.

CONSIDERABLE outrage has been directed at Chelsea coach Graham Rix, currently on bail after admitting having unlawful sex with a 15-year-old girl.

According to the *News of the Screws*, the old roué plied the child with booze and dope before seducing her.

After the story broke Chelsea chairman Ken Bates spurned calls for Rix's sacking. He said: "I believe there is more to this than meets the eye." Bates posed three pertinent questions: "Firstly, did the father get paid for selling his story? Secondly, if the crime was committed in February 1998, why did the father not go to the police until September? Thirdly, is it true the father and daughter came to the Chelsea-Manchester United match the day after the crime?"

The seedy details of the Rix affair were revealed because the girl's father secretly tape-recorded the conversation when he confronted the coach. He then sold the story to the *Screws* for a reported £70,000. Sharp work for an ordinary dad whose daughter had been the victim of a paedophile.

Were the father in fact a well-known tabloid hack with years of experience of writing sleazy sex stories, however, his actions would be all in a day's work, as it were.

"It's a draw!"

IT IS a long and distinguished tradition for hacks to be barred from licensed premises, but a new low in journalistic behaviour has been set by former *Time Out* hack Paul Charman, now head of London's largest teaching department for trainee reporters: he has been banned for life from his local massage parlour.

Charman, who took over from the dismissed Chris Horrie as head of the London College of Printing's journalism department, has always been a notorious tightwad. At his first job, on a Newcastle paper, he was continually cadging tenners from a colleague which he never quite remembered to repay. Since the colleague in question was Mark Knopfler, now the squillionaire guitarist for Dire Straits, the debt has long since been forgiven, if not forgotten. But Charman's own straits are as dire as ever in spite of his professorial salary. After a long and emotional evening at the Coach and Horses pub in Clerkenwell recently he staggered off to his favourite massage parlour in Camden Town.

First he demanded to pay the entrance fee by credit card — whereupon the mistress of the establishment pointed out that, as he should know by now, CCs were not accepted. Some time later he emerged from a cubicle followed by an angry young maiden who demanded to know why she had been offered £10 for a £60 session. When Charman replied that they were all "dirty slags anyway", a bevy of sultry masseuses booted him out into the night air, held a staff meeting and imposed the life ban.

"He knows what the prices are — he's been here often enough," one of them told the *Eye*.

ENEMIES of former *Mirror* boss David Montgomery (ie everyone) often portrayed him, rightly, as a dour Ulster Protestant. The *Mirror* board, however, have just narrowly been prevented from perpetrating a spectacular sectarian cock-up that Rommel would never have allowed.

The plan, approved by the Mirror Group board in London, was for the *Mirror*'s Scottish sister paper, the *Daily Record*, to sponsor Rangers FC. Brilliant. Except that, as every bowler-hatted bigot kno, Rangers is Glasgow's Protestant team and any newspaper sponsoring it would be instantly boycotted by fans of the Catholic team, Celtic. No Mirror Group paper has come up with so surefire a device for losing readers since the mid-1980s, when they used to feature Robert Maxwell's picture on nearly every page.

Fortunately the *Daily Record* and *Sunday Mail*'s foul-mouthed editor-in-chief Martin Clarke threw the plan straight back at Mirror Group's new chief executive, the aptly-named John Allwood.

SO determined is the *Daily Telegraph* to save the BBC show *One Man And His Dog*, presented by its rural columnist Robin Page, that proper editing standards have taken off into the hills.

On 27 February a front page headline trumpeted: "One man and his dog saved... from avalanche". However, the report did not refer to Page and his sideburns but to a dog called Jack that had been pulled from the snow that engulfed the Swiss resort of Galtur.

A neat in-joke perhaps — but tasteless and inaccurate. Wee Jack's owner was one of the 37 people killed by the avalanche.

IS THERE a poltergeist at Rupert Murdoch's Manhattan HQ in the Rockefeller Center? Lisa Chookasezian, the New York editorial manager for the Digger's British and Australian newspapers, began to think so after a bizarre series of incidents.

On several occasions she arrived at her office on the ninth floor to find the computer mysteriously "disabled". Then milk was poured into her office shoes on the carpet beneath her desk; a favourite brown sweater, left on a chair, was stabbed full of holes and soaked in milk; a foul smell was traced to cartons of sour milk that had been hidden in the back of her filing cabinet; her office pot plants kept dying, having apparently been doused with boiling coffee. "It was like *Fatal Attraction*," she told a friend. "I thought I was going to come in one day and find a dead bunny."

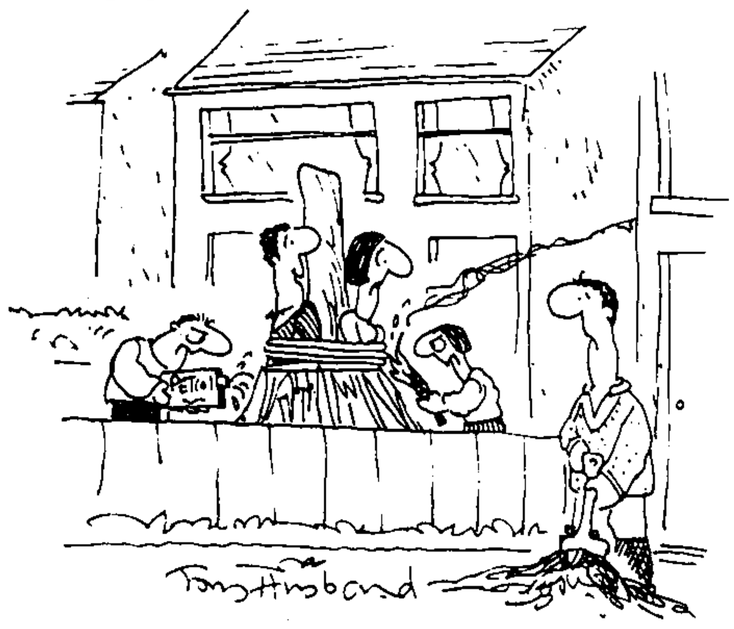
Terrified by this anonymous vendetta, she eventually alerted Edward O'Brien, a tough ex-policeman who is now in charge of security at the Rockefeller Center. He duly set up surveillance cameras and within days had caught the culprit — none other than suave, pukka, Oxford-educated Tunku Varadarajan, New York correspondent for the *Times*.

"Who are you to stop me?" Varadarajan asked when O'Brien confronted him. "I work for the *Times* of London — I can do anything I like."

"I don't give a damn who you work for," the security chief growled, brandishing a pair of handcuffs. "I work for the Rockefeller Center and if you don't get out and stay out I'll put the cuffs on you."

Executives at Wapping have now advised the demented hack that he should work from home in future. But why did he conduct this weird campaign of harassment in the first place? Lisa Chookasezian's only theory is that "I guess he has a problem with females."

Indeed he has. Until a few months ago Varadarajan was the *Times*'s New York bureau chief, but then gorgeous pouting Joanna Coles was brought in over his head and he found himself demoted to a mere correspondent. Even though he is now banned from the premises, Coles is taking no chances: she has changed the locks on her office door. As a further precaution her esteemed colleague's mugshot has been posted at the front security-desk, with instructions that he should be arrested at once if he ever enters the building again.



"Huh, kids eh, who'd have 'em?"

JUST FANCY THAT!

Q: Why did they send PMT sufferers to the Gulf?

A: Because they fought like animals and retained water for days!

— Sue Carrol's "He-Hee" joke, *Mirror*, 3 March.

Never mind the SAS, a desert situation like this requires an elite force — the PMT. They're utterly unpredictable, they fight like animals, they're a crack force who put the fear of God into men, and they can retain water for four days.

— Victor Lewis-Smith, *Mirror*, 6 March.

HACKWATCH

Melanie Phillips

THERE is no sterner moralist in Fleet Street than Melanie Phillips of the *Sunday Times*. When President Clinton cheated on his wife and then tried to lie his way out of trouble, she was incandescent. "Saying that these things don't matter is hardly an advance for civilisation... Adultery or desertion matter, because they destroy families and involve lies, callousness and breach of trust."

On Robin Cook, too, she had no doubts: "How can we have an ethical foreign policy when our foreign secretary behaved so unethically towards his former wife?" And on other philandering Labour MPs: "Labour whip David Clelland's affair with his secretary Brenda Graham isn't a private matter for the Gateshead primary school where Ms Graham is chair of governors and where a fellow governor thinks she should resign because of the example she is setting to children."

As Phillips wrote on 8 November last year, "public figures are role models, and their behaviour accordingly matters. Turning a blind eye to bad behaviour is neither tolerant nor liberal. It displays indifference. Liberal values rely by contrast on making judgments between right and wrong. The moral high ground may have become shrouded in fog, but we still need to get a form foothold on it."

Could any behaviour be worse than having sex with a schoolchild? Phillips thinks not. On 13 December her column attacked the "moral cowardice" which prevented liberals from saying that teenage sex was wrong. "There is an abhorrence of being judgmental which leaves children abandoned in the no-man's-land between physical precocity and emotional immaturity."

On 27 December she returned to the fray, attacking the "shameless" example set by public figures. "Political leadership is about character and example... Behaviour and attitudes at the top percolate through society to the people at the bottom." Those who wish to transform society for the better — including the chief schools inspector, presumably — "cannot do so if they do not also set an example themselves".

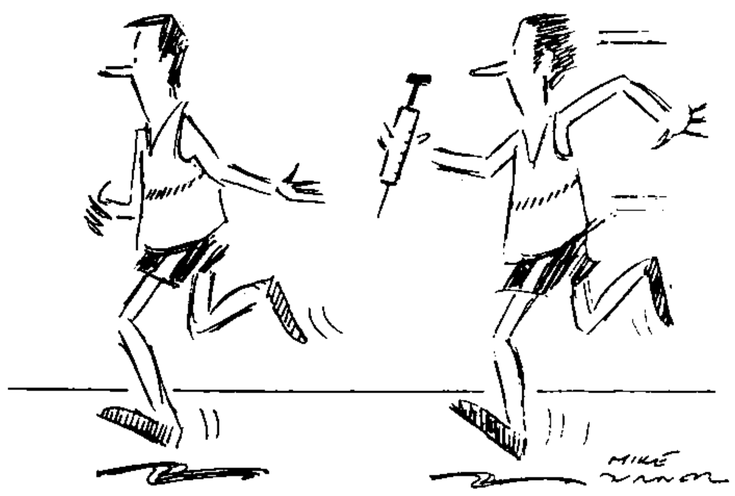
On 24 January this year she warned that lowering of the age of homosexual consent would have terrible consequences. "Few have grasped the scale and success of the campaign by sexual activists to sever completely the link between sex and marriage and so collapse the traditional family... Tomorrow's bill takes a large step in that direction. It's no longer just about gay sex. Remarkably, it implies that both gay and straight sex are proper activities for children... It legitimises preying on the young, gay *and* straight."

Yet another philippic from Phillips, on 7 February, savaged both Labour and the Tories for undermining the institution of marriage. "All relationships are *not* equal when it comes to the raising of children. Generally, children suffer if they're brought up by lone or step-parents." Financial incentives for marriage, though admirable, are not enough: "Putting the meaning back into marriage involves winning a culture war. Many in the media, political and social science establishments are peddling ever more inventive myths to justify selfish and irresponsible lifestyles."

Which brings us to Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools — who had an affair with one of his pupils, jettisoned his wife and small child, and then peddled ever more inventive myths to justify what Phillips would no doubt call his selfish and irresponsible lifestyle. Melanie Phillips's many fans (*Who they? — Ed*) opened the *Sunday Times* last weekend expecting to see the wretched Woodhead get the same treatment from her unforgiving pen as the wretched Clinton.

No such luck. Instead she dismissed the "unsubstantiated smear" against Woodhead (which in fact has been confirmed by his ex-wife and a former teaching colleague) and turned her anger at those who are "gloating over a torrid stream of allegations about his private life". Can this by any chance be the same Melanie Phillips who has hitherto insisted that the private life of a public figure "isn't a private matter" and that men such as Woodhead must "set an example"?

Indeed. But, er, Woodhead happens to be a close friend of Melanie Phillips. As she herself noted on 8 November last year, "Clearly, our culture is mighty confused."



WORLD OF SPORT

THE international olympic committee (IOC) gathered at its HQ in Lausanne this week for a wholesale purge of IOC members who have been accused of bribery and corruption.

The cash-for-votes scandal broke just before Christmas with the revelation that Salt Lake City had won the right to stage the 2002 winter olympics after making cash payments and providing free medical treatment, college scholarships, even ornamental doorknobs to the greedier brethren on the IOC in return for their support. But the corruption inquiry has now widened its dragnet to include all bidding cities since 1984 — including our own dear Manchester.

Seven years ago when Manchester was pitching to stage the 2000 games, the competition to win IOC support often circumvented the modest $150 limit on gifts. Manchester's bidding committee wined and dined IOC members extravagantly, as well as providing certain other favours. Sir Bob Scott, who was knighted for heading the unsuccessful campaign, arranged a personal introduction to the London School of Economics' director for Kalami Kumar, the daughter of India's IOC representative Ashwini Kumar.

"We did facilitate an interview, as anyone would for a friend," he told the *Eye*. "You have to remember that you get to know these people very well and they become friends. I count Ashwini Kumar as a friend. There was no suggestion of her fees being met by us." Such an admission could now prove rather embarrassing, since the 78-year-old Kumar is one of the IOC members recently named by Salt Lake City's ethics committee as having corruptly sought favours from their bid committee, and may well be expelled at this week's meeting.

Bruce Baird, former chief executive of Sydney's successful bid for the 2000 games and now an Australian MP, has accused Manchester of also offering charter flights and dinner with Princess Anne as part of its frantic lobbyfest. "If we are talking about duchessing, we were one of the minor players," he said last week.

Sure enough, records show that Princess Anne hosted receptions at Buckingham Palace for IOC members in June and December 1992. The following June, just before the crucial vote, the Manchester bid committee arranged a special British Airways charter flight from Lausanne to bring 20 IOC members, plus wives or partners, over to London for a lavish dinner at the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane — hosted once again by Princess Anne, Britain's senior member on the IOC. There were also jaunts to the Duke of Westminster's ancestral pile at Eaton Hall, cocktails with John Major at 10 Downing Street and parties with Jeffrey Archer at his "fashionable Thames-side apartment" (*shome mishtake, shurely? Ed.*)

Labour MP Graham Stringer, who was leader of Manchester city council at the time, confirms that dinners with the princess royal were integral to the lobbying policy. "It was all open and public. I don't think we need to be embarrassed by that." But others are fast losing patience with HRH. Accused in the past of being amateurish, old-fashioned and aloof, she has maintained a steadfast silence on the corruption allegations, claiming royal protocol prevents her from saying anything. She did not attend this week's crucial meeting in Lausanne and has refused to give evidence to the Commons select committee on culture, media and sport, which wants to investigate the olympic scandal.

Even the loyal Stringer admits that "she cannot go on the *Today* programme, or *Newsnight*, or speak to the *Sunday Times*, or do any of the other duties one might expect from the country's senior member of the IOC. That lack of accountability is a distinct disadvantage for British sport."

Many British olympians now want the princess to stand down and make way for someone with fewer inhibitions, such as Sebastian Coe. The trouble is that no one has the courage to tell her.

● Stringer of course was also very involved in Manchester's bid to win the 2002 Commonwealth games — a pet project (see *Eyes passim ad nauseam*). Despite the failure of his Global Forum '94 and the world table tennis championships in 1997 (which left Manchester taxpayers facing a bill of £800,000), Stringer insisted the games would break even with ease. He even managed to win £2m sponsorship from Manchester Airport, his old employer.

Now, however, it seems likely that his current employer, the government (Stringer was elected Labour MP for Manchester Blackley in May 1997), will have to bail out the games, which still need about £20m if they are not to be a total disaster.

While city council leaders pledge that local taxpayers will not have to fork out or suffer cut services, journalists are being told that "losses should be kept to a minimum".

TOP GEAR STICK

TRUE to his principles of being unmoved by any car that doesn't give him an erection or an attack of incontinence, Jeremy Clarkson recently slated the new Rover 75 in his *Sunday Times* column.

His *Sunday Times* colleague Ray Hutton was so embarrassed by the hatchet-job he felt obliged to publish an alternative review, judging the car on its merits — unlike Clarkson, who admitted that he was prejudiced against it anyway because Rover is now owned by the Germans.

Unfortunately for Clarkson his diatribe against Rover also caused ripples in the motor industry. Manufacturers and importers may be enemies on the showroom floor, but they understand that jobs and livelihoods can be jeopardised by idle comment based on a hack's desire to impress rather than a car's qualities. Clarkson's comments were none too popular in the industry, and now that he no longer presents the BBC's *Top Gear* he may find the supply of test cars and invitations tailing off.

All of which puts Jaguar in a bit of a spot. The Coventry firm's new model, the S-type, is seen as a competitor to the upper end of the Rover 75 range, so a bad review of the Rover might be said to favour the new Jag. As it happens, Clarkson is rumoured to have enjoyed the use of a free "long-term test" Jaguar for some years now, referring to it as "my Jag".

Not so: Clarkson tells the *Eye* that he has not one Jaguar but *four* on indefinite loan. "I've got lots of cars on free loans," he cheerfully admitted to the *Eye*. "If they're really good I just don't give them back. Everybody does it. We've all got Jags."

But he insists this would never influence his judgement. "I'm quite straight. You don't last very long in this business if you start taking corporate backhanders." So that's all right then.

IN THE TEAROOM

WHY has Trevor Phillips's bid to become Labour candidate in the London mayoral race been received with such a lack of enthusiasm by Downing Street? It's not as if they've had much success themselves in coming up with a candidate sure to see off Ken Livingstone. After floating Chris Smith, old Dobbo and even Mo, the "new" Labour establishment seems still to be without a runner.

Phillips has all the right credentials. As an outsider to Westminster politics he fits Tony Blair's original vision of "big tent" inclusiveness. As the owner of an independent TV production house, Phillips could even plausibly call himself a "businessman". Mandy was the best man at Trevor's wedding, and as an old boy of the LWT nursery which spawned Sir Pigling Bland and Sir John Birt at the BBC, David Aaronovich at the *Independent* and Lord Barg of Ubiquity, Trevor will certainly get medialand's support.

What's more, though the Macpherson report into the Stephen Lawrence killing didn't exactly specify a black mayor among its controversial recommendations, backing Trevor would certainly enable home secretary Jack Straw to be seen to be responding to the spirit of the report, while quietly ditching the bits he doesn't like — thought-crime, double jeopardy and a subjectivist approach to defining racial attacks.

And, let's face it, supporting Trevor would really put Livingstone and the Labour left where Tony wants them — opposing a black man. So why the cool disinterested pose?

Well, of course, for all the reasons cited above they really do love Trevor round at Number 10. But Mandy's failure to get on the NEC and Alun Michael's narrow squeak against Rhodri Morgan in Wales has made them realise that Blair's endorsement isn't always helpful in the party's internal struggles. So, it's far better to put up a total stooge as Tony's "official" poodle, letting Phillips fight and win as "his own man". The problem is that minister for London Nick Raynsford objects to playing the stooge. So, until they find one, an indifferent shrug towards Phillips is by far the best policy.

'Urquhart'

IT WAS thoughtful of home secretary Jack Straw to declare in the new register of MPs' interests an "upgrade to Club Class provided by British Airways to myself and family on outward and return flight from London to Delhi, registered 22 January 1999".

A pity perhaps he didn't also declare his close friendship with Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways — a friendship so close the two men shared their 50th birthday celebrations.

THE largest declared payment to a new Labour MP in the new register of interests is to Melanie Johnson, MP for Welwyn Hatfield. She registers a "financial contribution of £20,000 from Roche, a pharmaceutical company based in my constituency, for the improvement of the constituency services I can offer".

The *Sunday Express* on 14 March reported several complaints from Tory MPs about the size of this contribution, which is worth more than half Ms Johnson's salary. But it did not refer to the helpful references to the pharmaceutical industry by Melanie Johnson in the House of Commons.

On 10 March, for instance, after declaring the contribution, she complained about the proposed powers of the new Medicines Control Agency. "Companies," she protested, "could be in the invidious position of committing a criminal offence on the judgment of the MCA without being able to appeal to a higher court. I should like my right hon friend [Frank Dobson, health secretary] to address that."

Ms Johnson has not yet had time to raise in the Commons the effects of the anti-acne drug roaccutane, or the recent reports of the writ issued by more than 150 families against its manufacturer, Roche.

PS: The £20,000 from Roche to Melanie Johnson's constituency does not stretch to carpeting her offices. That is done free by Kevin Daley, a carpet supplier in Hatfield.

BOB WAREING, the Very Old Labour member for Liverpool West Derby, is affectionately known as "Slobabob" by constituents because of his stout defence of Brave Little Serbia against western black propaganda.

Slobabob horrified fellow members in 1995 by meeting Bosnian Serb leader Murderan Bastardovic (*surely "Radovan Karadvic"? Ed*). In 1997 he was suspended from the PLP for a time following allegations that he had failed to declare payments from a firm run by a Serb-born businessman. The Commons standards and privileges committee suspended him from the House for a week and ordered him to apologise.

It seems he has learnt his lesson. In the latest register of members' interests he has declared a visit made last October to another erstwhile Stalinist state — Azerbaijan. Bob's mission was to help monitor their general election, and his hotel bill and air fares were picked up by the Azeri parliament. Who better to supervise fair and democratic elections?

Closer to home the Blairites have established an NEC taskforce to supervise the election of an "executive leader" of the Liverpool Labour group. It is not thought they will be calling on Slobabob's experience to help monitor this particular election.

WENDY ALEXANDER, Labour's Scottish parliamentary candidate for Paisley south and onetime "special adviser" to Donald Dewar, is certainly a good wee girl when it comes to toeing the party line on image.

When being photographed for a newspaper article on women standing for the Scottish parliament she was placed in front of a large St Andrew's flag. Before allowing the snapper to go to work, however, she checked with Labour HQ in Glasgow whether it was OK — not wanting there to be any confusion with the flag-waving nationalists of the SNP. With candidates like this who needs control freakery?

"Everything's so much cheaper on the Continent"

stupendous bribery in Holland and Japan to be forgotten. But in 1995 the company pleaded guilty to bribing a senior Egyptian official to hand over transport plans. The fine was $24.8m.

3 The "Wizard" team led by US arms giant Northrop Grunman, which was raided by the FBI in 1989 and convicted of supplying faulty parts and test results for Harrier jump jets and Cruise missiles. The fine was $17m.

THE prime minister loves the Seychelles and when he goes there for family holidays usually spares a few moments to say a few kinds words with, and about, the islands' government.

But not everyone shares his enthusiasm. Among those less keen is Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish leader who, before he was arrested by the Kenyan authorities and bundled off to torture and imprisonment in Turkey, was precariously ensconced in the Greek embassy in Nairobi.

Desperate attempts were made to find him a safe haven. No doubt recalling that the islands once received the exiled Archbishop Makarios, the Greek authorities approached the Seychelles government and asked if it would accept Mr Ocalan. Yes, it replied, in the interests of human rights, etc, etc, it would do so at once — provided it was paid $15m first. Kurdish supporters of Ocalan could not find the money and the deal fell through.

CONGRATULATIONS to foreign office minister Tony Lloyd for teaching the world how to sing from the same hymn sheet.

More than a week *before* he departed on his recent troubleshooting tour of Africa, a press statement was sent from London to British high commissions in each of the nine countries he was due to visit — for release *after* his meetings with local heads of state.

In best "new" Labour form, Lloyd faithfully kept to the script when speaking to local hacks about his top-level discussions. Copies of the statement were then miraculously produced, so journalists could have a hard copy of the hot air.

Alas, not everyone was impressed. "Why not save the taxpayers money," one puzzled African asked, "by simply distributing the press release and keeping Mr Lloyd in London?" Why not indeed?

'Backbiter'

HOWARD SHOCK

HOME secretary Jack Straw says he is "honoured" to sign up to the European criminal law anti-corruption convention. "The UK government is committed to combating all forms of corruption," he announced proudly.

So which company will his government choose from the three big multinationals tendering for the army's lucrative ASTOR programme. ASTOR stands for Airborne Stand-Off Radar, a tracking system to help UK forces then blow up the enemy with more accuracy; and the three main tenders for the £750m contract are all US companies. They are:

1 Raytheon, which is not unknown in corruption trials. On 9 January it agreed to pay back $400,000 for double-billing the US government on aircraft maintenance. In March 1990 the company pleaded guilty to stealing US air force budget and planning documents and was fined $1m. And in 1995 former sales manager John McDermott admitted receiving more than $250,000 in bribes.

2 Lockheed, which would like its long history of

Number crunching

£30 billion
■ yearly cost of EU common agricultural policy before reforms to save money.

£31 billion
■ yearly cost of EU common agricultural policy after reforms to save money.

WORLD OF HYPE

EVERYONE has heard of the "homes for votes" scandal at Westminster city council. But what of "cash for planning permission"? An internal memo prepared for staff at political lobbyists GJW, obtained by the *Eye*, sheds light on this little-known form of influence-peddling.

"The type of development project we get called in to help on — particularly in Westminster — generally requires help in persuading members to support an application as the only way of assuring permission," it notes. "In many cases without a member's support the scheme fails and is therefore worthless. GJW's actions are therefore crucial to the success of the project."

For this reason GJW lobbyists are advised not only to charge their standard fee of £150 per hour but to demand a bonus if they persuade councillors to push through planning consent. "The key point is that obtaining a planning permission is very valuable to a client and they should be prepared to pay for a success."

Developers are unlikely to complain, the memo adds, since "our success fee is minimal compared with the value of their project... The size of the fee will depend on the size of the project, but generally we should not be thinking of less than £10,000 — £15,000." What could be more minimal than that?

NEW OLD SAYINGS

You reap what you sue

LEGAL NEWS

A RECENT edition of the weekly *Lawyer*, which delivers good news about legal firms, included a terrific puff for the long-established City firm of Bird & Bird (70 solicitors, and rising).

Its gist was that the firm is now concentrating on litigation and woe betide the unlucky litigant who finds Bird & Bird on the other side. Senior partner Christopher Rees was quoted as saying his aim was that "clients will instruct Birds because they could not face the prospect of having us on the other side".

A good example of the success of the firm's aggressive tactics was a recent case involving the partners of celebrated adman Tony Kaye. Kaye, who had fallen out with two of his colleagues, could not face the prospect of having Bird & Bird on the other side and so called up the firm to sort out his opponents. Writs were issued with a tremendous flourish and some very favourable publicity in the advertising press.

Whoops! The proceedings were issued in the name of K Media Developments Ltd. Unfortunately for him, his two colleagues whom he was suing were still directors of that company and constituted a majority on its board. An impertinent letter back to Bird & Bird observed that the two directors could not recollect any board decision to issue a writ against themselves. How embarrassing. The plaintiff company was struck out of the action, and Bird & Bird was left with a court order to pay all the costs.

GLOSSY *New Woman* magazine recently ran a fluffy piece on debt and the problems faced by women addicted to their credit cards. The article featured a version of the 80s hit *Lady In Red*, by easy-listening has-been Chris de Burgh.

"I've never seen you looking so overdrawn as you do tonight, Never seen your plastic shine so bright", it began, chuntering along harmlessly enough for a couple of verses.

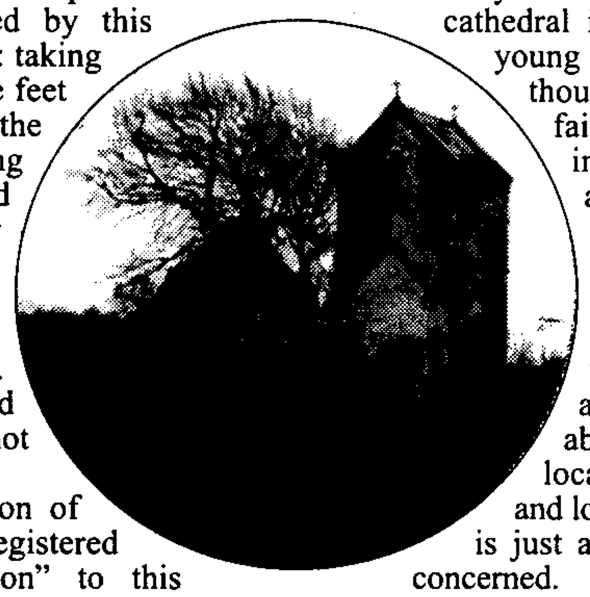
All light hearted fun, it would seem — but not to de Burgh, who promptly slapped a writ on *New Woman* for failing to seek his permission to use the lyrics.

NOOKS and CORNERS

IN *Eye* 970 I dealt with the arrogant and brutal behaviour of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Cardiff towards the buildings in its care. Now, to show how fair and even handed I am, I wish to demonstrate that philistinism in Cardiff is certainly not confined to the archbishop, John Ward.

St Mary's Church in Caerau, near Cardiff, is a 13th century structure with a rugged west tower sited within an ancient hill fort — an ancient monument — above the road to Barry. Until the 1960s it was in continuous use as a church. It was restored by John Pritchard in 1885 and further modernised in 1919. Then, some 50 years later, it was simply abandoned by the Church of Wales and finally deconsecrated in 1973. Weather and vandals have now reduced the structure to a roofless ruin.

St Mary's passed from the Church of Wales to South Glamorgan county council and then to Cardiff city council, whose imaginative response to the conservation challenge presented by this ancient structure is to demolish it: taking down the walls to leave just three feet of masonry standing above the ground — after the poor old thing has been recorded and photographed, of course, to satisfy the archaeologists. This will cost about £30,000 of public money and leave Caerau rather less interesting than it is at present. And St Mary's is a grade II listed building — of which there are not many in the Cardiff area.



The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) has registered "the strongest possible objection" to this intended act of casual vandalism, describing the proposal as one of the worst it has seen for a long time. The society points out that, under Welsh office circular 61/96(127), local authorities are expected to set a good example in the care of historic buildings and that "if a private owner had permitted a grade II building to get into this state, they could have been forced to carry out repairs".

The SPAB commissioned specialist builders to look at the ruin. They have concluded that the fabric is in not particularly bad condition, that it can be consolidated in its present state and the site made safe and secure for a mere £25,000 — rather less than the city council proposes to waste on eliminating an innocent medieval survivor.

Money, of course, is everything in Cardiff. Why else would it be proposed to build a whizzy new building designed by — guess who? — Milord Rogers of Riverside down in Cardiff Bay (where nobody in their right mind wants to be) for the Welsh assembly, rather than use the existing and magnificent Edwardian City Hall in Cathays Park? For that, we — and they — must blame the government, determined as it is to deny the people of Wales, and Scotland (and for that matter London) the chance to decide on what architecture they would like to express their notions of democracy.

But I digress. What hope for poor Caerau church? Not much really, especially as CADW, the spineless, useless Welsh English Heritage, seems happy to acquiesce in the demolition of anything and everything.

MEANWHILE in Cleveland the Roman Catholic diocese of Middlesbrough has applied to the borough council for permission to demolish its (former) cathedral having neglected it for years.

Old St Mary's Cathedral is a fine and substantial Victorian Gothic structure designed by Goldie & Child and built in 1872-76. The building served as a cathedral until 1986, since when the archdiocese has simply allowed it to rot — despite it being listed, thanks to the Victorian Society. It was closed because, in its wisdom, the archdiocese of Middlesbrough decided to build a brand new cathedral — not in the centre of the town where such institutions conventionally and usefully are, but on the very edge of the built-up area to the south.

This new "cathedral" is a cheap, modish, polygonal brick structure which is easily mistaken for one of the out-of-town hypermarkets sited conveniently nearby. The location of the new cathedral is, of course, nice 'n' handy for young couples with a car: bad luck, though, on the few elderly or infirm faithful who still obstinately survive in the centre of Middlesbrough and are now obliged to attend a local school for Mass.

As for George Goldie's fine building, raised with the pennies of the faithful, embellished with fine furnishings — once including an Italian Renaissance painting above the altar given by the great local ironmaster Henry Bolckow — and lovingly looked after for a century, it is just a nuisance as far as the clergy is concerned.

"Diocesan spokesman" Fr Derek Turnham has admitted that the proposed demolition is "totally tragic": meaning that "the biggest tragedy of all is that it wasn't demolished back in 1986 when we first applied". Totally tragic too for poor Middlesbrough which, thanks to its 19th century history of rapid growth, is not exactly blessed with fine buildings. And, thanks to the activities of the local authority in recent years, there are precious few in the city centre worth looking at — and (old) St Mary's Cathedral is, or was, one of them.

Lest any reader think I am anti-Catholic and lacking in sympathy for the Roman Catholic authorities in coping with the problems created by so much redundant ecclesiastical plant, I quote from an editorial in the Catholic Herald on 5 February:

"Intentionally or not, the diocese of Middlesbrough has employed a technique common among the more unscrupulous type of property developer. Ownership of a listed building can be inconvenient to those wishing to develop the site. They therefore allow it to deteriorate to the point at which restoration is no longer an economic possibility... The avoidable loss of yet another decent Catholic building from the English Church's dwindling architectural heritage is part of a history of Philistinism which ought by now to be causing the Church authorities in this country to feel distinctly uneasy. Sadly, the evidence seems to be that the uneasiness is still confined mostly to the faithful."

'Piloti'

LONDON'S BUSIEST SOLICITOR?

AS THE Macpherson report on the Stephen Lawrence murder makes clear, some of the original suspects, including David Norris, were represented at various court proceedings by Henry Milner, the distinguished solicitor of Hatton Garden. Mr Milner may be busy again soon if his client Kenneth Noye, is returned to London after being extradited for a famous road rage murder.

Litigant has no right to lay adviser in chambers

The Times

Litigation Manager:
A Ruffhead, MICM, Filex

Blunts, Solicitors

Union Security Balloting Ltd

IN OUR last issue we reported that three large trade unions — the T&GWU, Unison and the AEEU — had "discontinued with the services" of Union Security Balloting Ltd, which organises union elections. Lawford and Co, solicitors, assure us that the T&GWU and AEEU have never used the services of their client Union Security Balloting, which is currently organising a ballot for Unison. We regret the error.

FTVE

Ask the Family (UK Gold)
Mr and Mrs With Julian Clary (ITV)
Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? (ITV)

AFTER the recent complaints here about the rampant ironic/nostalgic strain in the present schedules — all those series set in the 60s and 70s — it turns out that the situation is even worse than feared.

The actual programmes from those unlamented decades are now being bodily resurrected. Of particular horror — because of the worrying opportunities they offer both for nostalgia and irony — is the return of two shows which were devoted in their very titles and formats to the social structures of the past: *Ask the Family* and *Mr and Mrs*.

Ask the Family plays on a satellite and cable channel dedicated to classic repeats, but this series is something of a departure: not a repeat of the Robert Robinson series which ran from 1967 but a theatre-like revival in which a new generation of players takes over the famous roles. Robinson is replaced by Alan Titchmarsh, a casting decision which makes its own point about what has happened to both television and quizzes in the intervening three decades. Robinson was mock-professional; Titchmarsh is pseudo pub landlord.

Unusually for an example of retread television, *Ask the Family* is revived without irony, played as close to the original as possible apart from passing acknowledgement of modern approaches to set-design and hair-dressing. When the return of the show was announced, there was much excited discussion of how the producers would deal with the fact that the title-noun now had an almost entirely different meaning.

The format's idea of a team entirely reflected 60s definitions: dad, mum, two kids, with the dad as the wage-earner unless mother was a teacher as well. In the 90s, would those cute rounds for "mothers and younger child" or "fathers and elder children" be replaced by trend-conscious categories such as "Mummy's Special Friends and younger step-children" or "sperm donors and co-parents only"?

Alas it turns out the aim is to recreate the feel of the original as closely as possible. Although Titchmarsh is careful not to say "husband" and "wife" as Robinson used to with easy assumption, the terms "mum" and "dad" are used, which no schoolteacher these days would risk. And the two teams in Sunday's first programme from round one — Sinclairs versus Hughes — were basic middle-class photo material, the only departure from convention being that one of the women was allowed to introduce herself first.

But, even played aggressively for nostalgia, the series accidentally offers topical interest in its evidence of how general knowledge has changed. After a shamelessly poppy opening round — identifying the sidekicks of fictional detectives — the show did the kind of questions it used to do three decades back: number puzzles, Eng Lit, soft history, mild science. One poser involved Robin Hood; another was based around a Giles cartoon. Both families, though, struggled. Amazingly, no one recognised the opening line of *Nineteen Eighty Four*. "Anne of Green Gables", suggested a mum.

Mr and Mrs With Julian Clary — a revival of another 60s quizzer — takes the opposite approach. The accidentally camp Derek Batey is replaced as host by the calculatedly camp Julian Clary, although he presides over an almost identical format: couples asked the same question separately and then the answers compared.

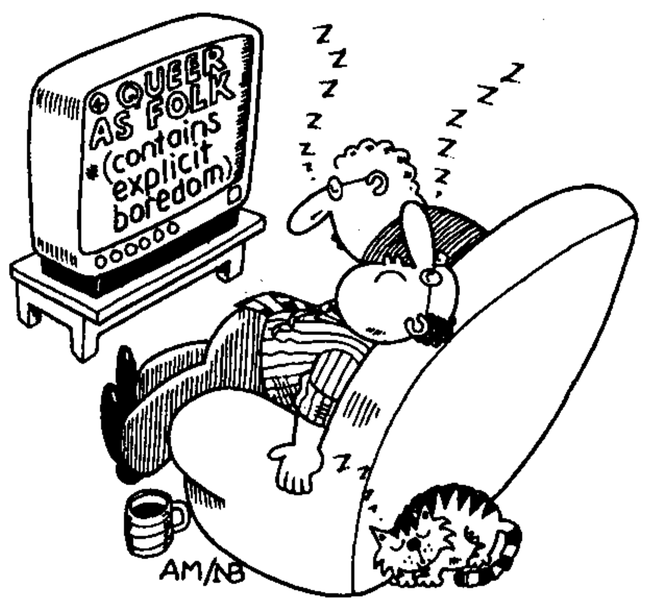
Whereas the original show was nervous of any suggestion that the partners might have a sexual relationship — there used to be couples who were unsure whether their partners wore pyjamas — Clary is guaranteed to turn almost any query about what the other half prefers into a leer about what they get up to or, indeed, even what they get up.

Strangely enough the original *Mr and Mrs* was itself an ironic exercise, although irony was being used in its straight sense: isn't it ironic that we can know so little about those with whom we share our intimate lives? But these days the biggest problem for many contestants will be the risk of mixing up the numerous spouses they have had: "Oops, Julian, I was thinking of my second wife!" The main interest in this series will not be in seeing how ironic it can be about the original but how serious it can be about the ways in which relationships have changed. So far the producers say they will allow non-married couples in established relationships but pilots featuring gay couples were considered a failure.

Meanwhile the ridiculous success of **Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?** severely questions the wisdom of reviving 60s quizzes. ITV's biggest hit for years is completely without irony, has a host (Chris Tarrant) who substitutes simple ham ("Is that definitely your final choice?") for clever camp and understands that the point of a 90s quiz show is not the questions but the prize. Tarrant cleans up because he's got the biggest one, whatever Julian Clary says.

'Square Eyes'

NEW OLD SAYINGS



There's nowt so boring as queers

MEDIA NEWS

THE profs and toffs who sit on the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) seem a little naive when it comes to cross promotions within Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation empire.

Surprisingly the ASA has rejected a complaint against the *Times* newspaper over a 36-page supplement claiming to tell readers "how digital TV works". Unsurprisingly the information on how digital TV worked seemed to involve subscribing to Sky Digital — like the *Times*, part of the Murdoch empire.

The glossy freebie was sponsored by Sky, although this was not reported in a front-page puff for the guide. Ignoring the common ownership of the media outlets, the ASA meekly ruled that because Sky "had not paid to influence the editorial of the supplement, the *Times* need not make clear their involvement in the front page flash".

Plugged In

Sky News is launching its own News At Ten to fill the gap left by the axing of ITV's flagship bulletin. Veteran anchorman Bob Friend will front the 30-minute Sky News At Ten, which starts on Monday March 8.

***News of the World* revealing that there will be news at ten (on a 24-hour news channel)**

There was just one snag for the new mum. She was unable to show Brooklyn his dad in Manchester United's FA Cup tie with Chelsea because the Portland Hospital doesn't have Sky Sports 2.

The *Sun* reporting the problems facing Posh Spice

An occasional column devoted to cross-media plugs masquerading as news.

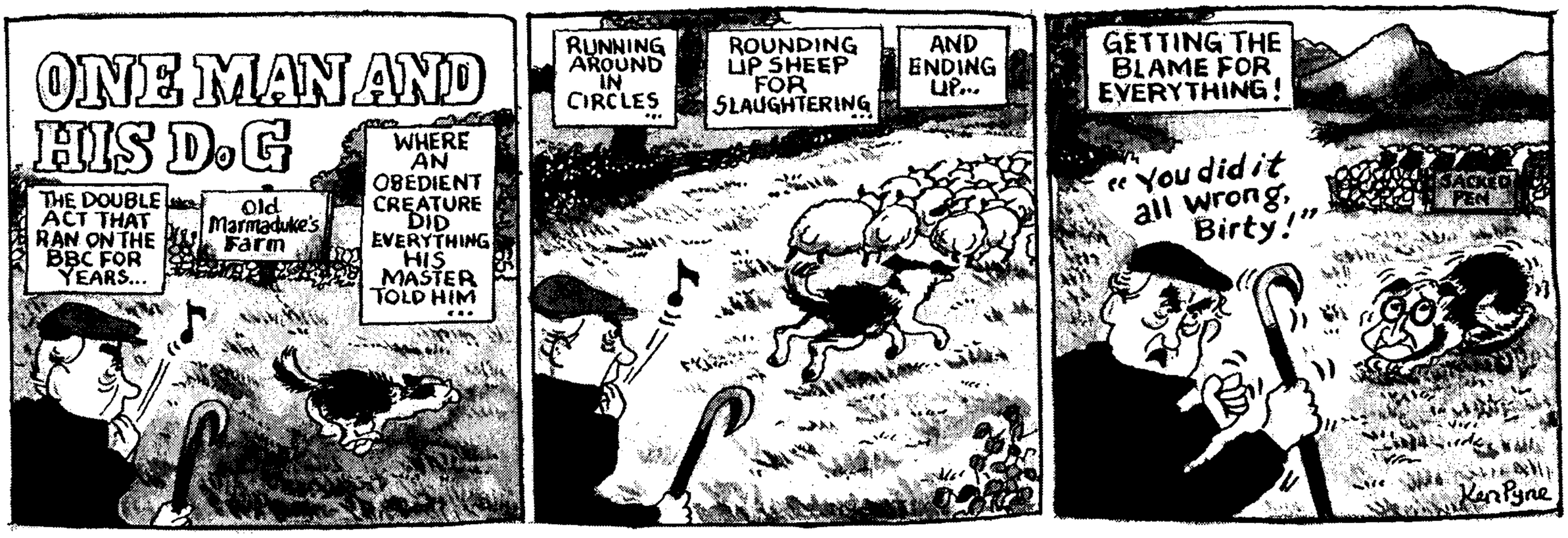
DESPERATE measures at BBC World, the corporation's nearly-as-bad-as-News-24 satellite channel.

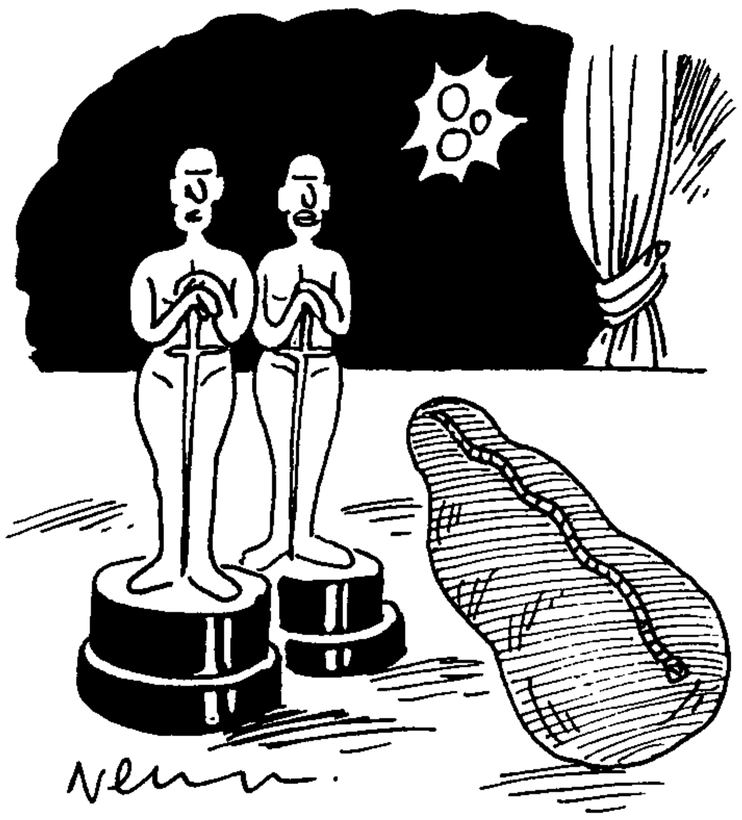
At the beginning of March channel boss Patrick Cross wrote to all staff in the corporation's profit-making wing. He urged them, when staying in a hotel that does *not* offer BBC World, to write to the manager with the following pitiful plea:

Dear General Manager,

I have enjoyed my stay in your hotel... Please pass on my thanks to the relevant staff. Whilst the number of television channels available and the quality of the programming provided has improved over the last few years, I am surprised and disappointed that you do not include BBC WORLD in the package of channels available to your guests. This channel, which I have seen at most other top hotels, provides me with regular global news which is known for its integrity and lack of bias, unlike other news providers. It also includes excellent lifestyle programming which I can enjoy between the news bulletins. I may have to reconsider staying at your hotel again unless you are able to offer BBC WORLD in the future.

As Cross knows, when viewing figures are as low as those of BBC World, every little helps.


ONE MAN AND HIS D.G
THE DOUBLE ACT THAT RAN ON THE BBC FOR YEARS...
Old Marmaduke's Farm
WHERE AN OBEDIENT CREATURE DID EVERYTHING HIS MASTER TOLD HIM ...
RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES ...
ROUNDING UP SHEEP FOR SLAUGHTERING ...
AND ENDING UP...
GETTING THE BLAME FOR EVERYTHING!
"You did it all wrong, Birty!"
SACRED PEN
Ken Pyne



"It's the Oscar for Saving Private Ryan*"*

THERE has been much rejoicing in the valleys at the Oscar nomination for *The Canterbury Tales*, a joint S4C/BBC Wales production shortlisted for best short animated film. Behind the scenes, however, there has been a blood-on-the-walls fight as to who deserves the credit.

Among those in the know, the main factor in the success is the involvement of Cardiff-based animator Joanna Quinn — who also won an Academy Award nomination last year for her version of the Posy Simmonds story *Famous Fred*. But the Oscar citation gives the credit to Chris Grace, who is, er, the commissioning editor for S4C and had, shall we say, a rather limited artistic contribution compared with the animators who made the films. Yet Grace and his co-producer Jonathan Myerson were planning to jet over to the Oscar ceremony without the animators, accompanied only by various other members of the TV Taffia.

Following protests from American animators who admire Joanna Quinn's work, the graceless Grace has now agreed that she can come too. But if Academy members vote for *The Canterbury Tales*, it remains to be seen who will actually step up to collect the trophy.

IN a new waste of licencepayers' money, BBC news personnel has sent out natty, colourful desk calendars to its "team briefers". "They have been produced," says the attached blurb, "to reinforce the message that communicating face to face with staff is often the best way."

A cheerful Mao-style message on each pop-up page is designed to educate staff in the latest sophisticated management techniques: "When preparing for your team meeting, if you don't know, say so and then find the answer", suggests one. "Use your posture and facial expression to show interest", says another — making the point with a picture of a man facing the wrong way at a meeting.

Alas the calendars have not been well received at White City, where they languish in a bin under the word "bollocks".

News personnel of course knows all about communicating face to face with staff — particularly when axing programmes and programme makers to save licencepayers' money for schemes like this.

TO have any chance of saving the demanded £700,000 this year, hacks at BBC Leeds are being booted out of their offices and shunted into smaller, cheaper accommodation sans canteen, parking or security. Whole sections of their building have been shut off and handed back to BBC Resources — thus "saving" money even though the corporation still owns this now empty, useless space.

Within days of announcing this belt-tightening, the head of local and regional programmes Colin Philpott took his entire management team for a "brainstorming session" at the swanky Hazelwood Castle hotel, offering "the traditional comforts of an elegant private house while retaining an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity" for a modest £150 to £310 per person a night. Room was even found for the "head of special projects" who retires next month.

AS British newspaper editors know, the murder of eight western tourists in Uganda — some with graduation pictures and good human-interest stories — ranks high above the deaths of at least 800,000 Rwandans and assorted Ugandans.

Listeners to the English language World Service, however, were surprised that such news values also now seem to apply at Bush House. The way the incident was reported on *The World Today* in the early hours of 3 March has prompted angry calls from listeners, bemusement among staff and the circulation of irate memos at Bush House.

The World Today asked why "holidaymakers head to such perilous parts of the world" and tried to answer the question in a discussion between two representatives of the tourist industry. Listeners in Africa who are only too well aware of the frequent incidents of kidnap, torture, rape and murder in southern Uganda in recent years, did not appreciate this angle at all. And they appreciated even less the way the programme only mentioned in passing that up to four Ugandans were also killed.

Questions are being asked as to why the programme depended so heavily on sources in Britain and did not bother to contact correspondent Chris Simpson, who has covered events in the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda over the last year and is based in Kigali to provide comment and analysis on such issues.

IT'S hard enough to find anyone who watches Channel 5, let alone anyone prepared to watch it at 6 am. But the co-presenters of the channel's early morning news and sport programme, Johnny Gould and Becky Anderson, have worked happily together for the past year or two in spite of a slight dearth of actual viewers.

Alas! This harmonious pairing was jeopardised when Becky accidentally received Johnny's new contract through the post — and discovered that he earns £77,000 a year against her modest £57,000. Angry scenes ensued.

Terrified of a sex discrimination lawsuit, Channel 5 bosses hastily awarded her an immediate £20,000 pay-rise.

ALL is not well at the cutting edge of the digital revolution: the BBC has finally admitted that reception of such services is "less than satisfactory" ("You and Yours" 2 March).

Retailers have a list of postcodes where good reception may not be expected, thus avoiding potential problems when irate customers try to claim money back on their guarantees, for example. The problem? There are more hills and valleys in the UK than planners imagined, and with so few digital subscribers it is taking longer than expected to collect "customer feedback".

JUST FANCY THAT!

THE 18-year-old Petrina Khashoggi's horrible realisation that her father was Jonathan Aitken was probably helped by the fee she received from *Hello!* magazine to recount her trauma alongside her half sister Alexandra Aitken.

Curiously the magazine located its photoshoot at "a friend's villa in Southern Spain" — in La Almuna, to be precise. One man who has a villa in La Almuna is Aitken's fellow former cabinet minister Cecil Parkinson. Can we look forward to similar touching scenes of reconciliation between Parky and his own illegitimate daughter?

POLICE 5

MERSEYSIDE police investigated an armed robbery at a convenience store last month with their usual thoroughness.

The thieves used a car they had stolen in the Warrington area, which was found abandoned in Liverpool the next day. A forensic examination of the car was made undertaken, but the police were more concerned with finding the security videotape taken by the robbers, who had tied up the shop assistant.

The stolen car was thus returned to its owner the following week, complete with fingerprint powder and small yellow marker arrows pointing to invisible but presumably significant marks. One thing the forensic team missed, however, was, er, a videotape marked "Wednesday" on the back shelf of the car.

When the owner collected her car and discovered the tape, she called the police in Warrington. However, they seemed relatively unconcerned and said she could drop it into the station if she had a chance. It was a full five minutes before the penny dropped and they called back in some excitement, telling her an officer was coming round to take a statement and collect the tape.

When asked how the forensic team had managed to miss it, she was told: "Maybe they thought it was yours."

Number crunching

150 ■ Number of Metropolitan police officers in flying squad investigating civilian crime

180 ■ Number of Metropolitan police officers in CIB squad investigating police corruption

BEDFORDSHIRE police evidently had to learn fluent Birtspeak in order to write *Quality in the Police Service*, an incomprehensible paper they prepared for the standards and quality sub-committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Here's a taste:

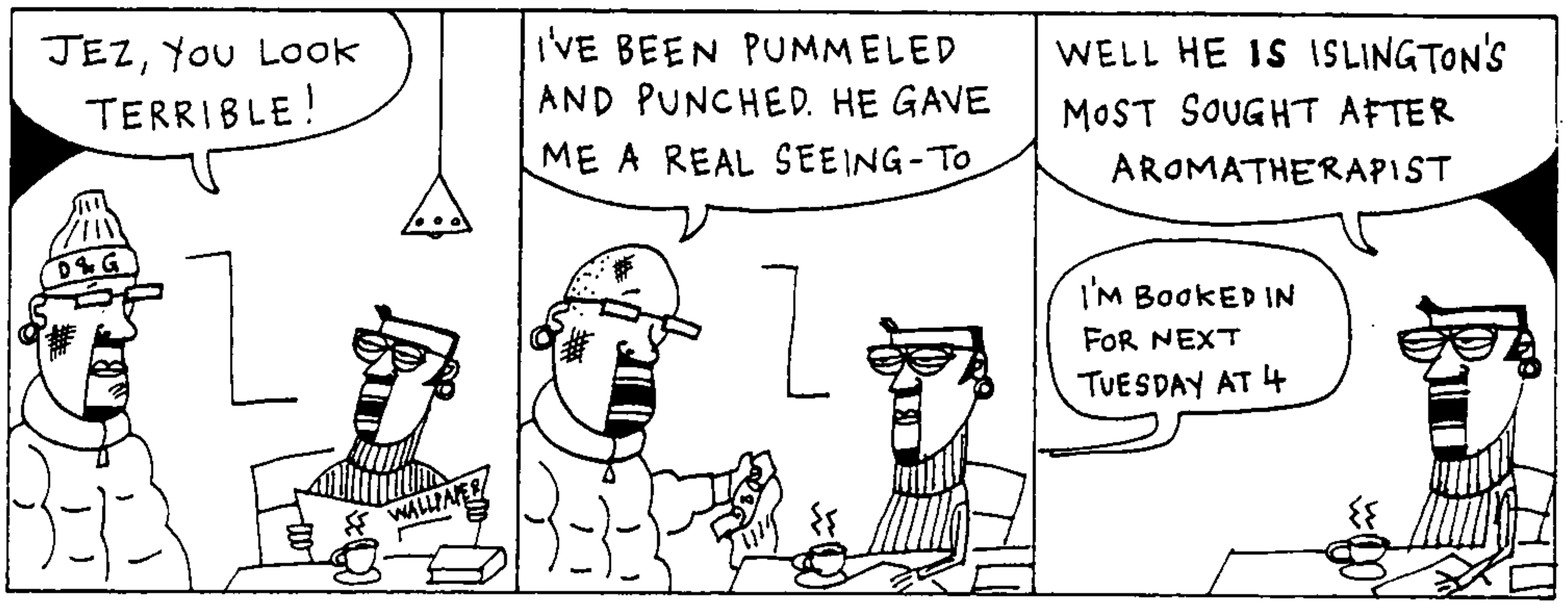
Policing Standards

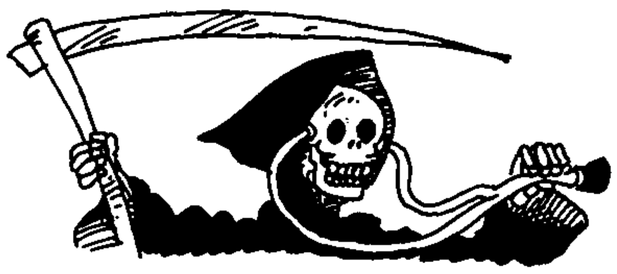
Standards define the parameters of service ***delivery*** quality for policing. They describe the *type, volume, level, access* and *equality* of policing services that ought to be ***delivered*** to match the public ***requirement***.

It is acknowledged that the existing set of standards does not yet fully fulfil this role. In devising new standards, we need to direct our efforts at those which will redress any imbalances that already exist between ***requirement*** and service ***delivery***, so as to balance the equation. Any new and valid need or expectation has to be balanced by the development of a standard that addresses one or more of the elements of service ***delivery.***

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON

KNIFE & PACKER


JEZ, YOU LOOK TERRIBLE!
D&G
WALLPAPER
I'VE BEEN PUMMELED AND PUNCHED. HE GAVE ME A REAL SEEING-TO
WELL HE IS ISLINGTON'S MOST SOUGHT AFTER AROMATHERAPIST
I'M BOOKED IN FOR NEXT TUESDAY AT 4



DOING THE ROUNDS

THE national press has finally caught up with the *Eye*'s exposure of the staffing crisis in obstetrics and gynaecology (960).

According to the British Medical Association (BMA), 350 trained specialists could be out of work by the year 2001, and it has asked the department of health to fund new consultant posts and extend current contracts until these new posts become available.

Junior doctors who opted for a career in obstetrics believed that when the DoH planned a consultant expansion rate of 5 percent, it would actually deliver. Alas the rate has fallen to 2 percent and many trainees have no chance of becoming consultants.

The situation is compounded by the fact that the health trusts who need more obstetricians are tending to appoint associate specialists or staff grade posts instead. These are cheaper than consultants (though not much) but are largely excluded from private practice. Therefore existing consultants can share their NHS workload (though not secretaries or offices) with their staff grade colleagues and protect their private income.

Alan Maynard, professor of health economics at York University, has no sympathy for the stranded trainees. "The Department of health is neither funded nor empowered to act as a ministry of social security which protects healthcare professionals who make bad career choices. People in other sectors who find their skills unwanted, such as coal miners and those in manufacturing, have been systematically eradicated in the past two decades with minimal compensation. Why should 350 would-be obstetricians be treated any differently?"

Prof Maynard blames poor workforce planning and self-interested royal colleges, whose income is governed by training and examining as many junior doctors as possible. "The failure rate can be as high as 50 percent, which either indicates that the training process is poor or that the colleges are restricting entry to increase their public and private incomes."

He may have a point; but equally he may not have spent much time on a labour ward recently. In 1997 the *British Medical Journal* (vol 315, 19 Jul) reported that half the deaths of young infants each year might be avoidable. The report investigated 1,266 infant deaths and concluded that in 52 percent of cases different care "would reasonably have been expected to have made a difference" and in a further 25 percent it "might have made a difference".

Obstetricians were responsible for less than optimal care in 60 percent of cases, with hospital midwives implicated in 46 percent. Only 20 percent of cases involved consultants or senior midwives, and the report recommended improved supervision of junior staff to reduce deaths. It also called for nationally approved assessment and accreditation of relevant staff.

A year later the fifth annual Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths confirmed that some babies die due to "poor clinical management". Many of the babies who died had been ill enough to warrant medical attention in the 24 hours before they died, but appropriate action wasn't taken. As ever, you get the NHS you pay for.

If the government believes its own hype on a first class NHS "in which there is no room for second best", it needs to fund enough consultant posts so that doctors in training have round the clock supervision. If it prefers to muddle along with patchy care and hundreds of preventable child deaths each year, health secretary Frank Dobson should at least make this explicit.

M.D.

DOWN ON THE FARM

TO ANYONE working in the meat trade it is amazing that no tabloid newspaper has woken up to one of the weirdest of all the wonders showered on us by the European Union (EU): the behaviour of the army of foreign vets, many young women, who since 1995 have been hired to impose a reign of terror on the hard men of Britain's meat industry.

Under a series of EU directives Britain has been forced to accept the continental system of inspection, run by vets. But because Britain has a quite different system of inspection, run by meat inspectors, there are not enough British vets to do the work. So the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) has had to import scores of foreign vets, many from Spain, who now preside over the running of many of Britain's meat businesses.

Most imported vets have no experience of law enforcement. All they require is a week's course in hygiene law and a bare minimum of English. Yet they have life-or-death powers over everything which goes on in an abattoir and do not shrink from using them.

One frequent complaint about their conduct is their astounding ignorance. One Spanish vet in East Anglia recently screamed that the spinal cord had not been removed from a beef carcase, under BSE rules. The puzzled slaughtermen saw he was examining a large dead sow. Another, told to remove a pig's kidneys for drug residue testing, proceeded to cut off the animal's testicles.

An even more heartfelt complaint is how officiously the vets exercise their powers. In 1995 poultry packer Graham Brand was only the first of countless owners to be threatened with the closure of their business over a triviality. When the newly-launched MHS ordered him to pay £18,000 for the services of a Spanish vet 10 hours a week, for doing no more than the Spaniard's predecessor had managed in a fifth of the time, Mr Brand replied by telling Senor Tabuenca that he expected the work to be done in two hours. The vet promptly issued a notice closing the firm down, threatening to put 80 people out of work, until an embarrassed MHS retrieved the situation.

When Senor Sergio Pavon ordered a Lancashire abattoir to adopt the HACCP system (devised by NASA to ensure safe food for astronauts), he wrote that this was necessary "to prevent hygiene". He then noticed that a hoist 14 feet above the floor had a wooden frame. Because Brussels ordains that wood is "unhygienic" and must not be permitted in an abattoir, he ordered that the firm's 40 employees be laid off and the plant closed until the offending substance had been removed.

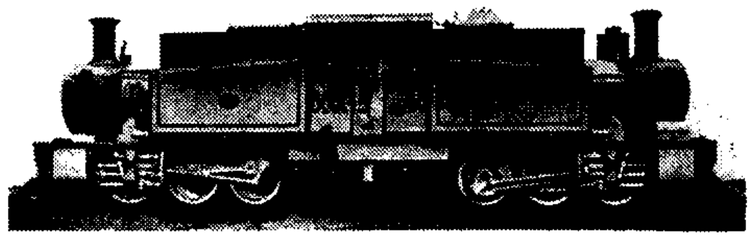
Dr Claude Vachette (*sic*), a French vet whom the MHS had to transfer from a Yorkshire abattoir after one particularly awkward Gallic outburst, also made waves in his new posting. Told one morning by the owner that his "services" would not be needed because no animal was to be killed that day, the vet misunderstood and took umbrage. He persuaded the MHS to bring five criminal charges against the firm for breaches of regulations. When the owner said he would fight such a daft case all the way, the MHS added 12 further charges.

Some of the more exotic tales concern young Spanish lady vets. In Norfolk recently, when a *Sunday Telegraph* article headlined "Cost Of Foreign Vets Threatens Meat Firms" was pinned up in the staff canteen of a poultry processing company employing 72 people, the Spanish vet was so enraged she alleged this constituted a criminal breach of regulations, marking down the firm's hygiene score to within an ace of it losing its licence. She also recorded that an employee had breached regulations by "burping" in her presence.

All this might be the stuff of high comedy if the British government had not been told by Brussels that it is "under-implementing" EU rules and must hire some 300 to 400 *more* foreign vets to provide every firm with round-the-clock "veterinary cover". This will not improve hygiene but it will drive Britain's meat men to even greater heights of fury and bitterness. And as ministers like Jeff Rooker and Lord Donoughue privately concede, the prohibitive cost means hundreds of firms will not survive.

On the continent, meanwhile, *none* of this is happening. In almost all other EU countries the cost of meat inspection, where it takes place at all, is met in full by taxpayers. But this is brushed aside by Mr Blair's ministers, who say they have no choice but to obey "EU rules". How different in 1995 when Labour was still in opposition — and Mr Blair and his frontbench signed a motion deploring the setting up of the MHS, precisely because they feared such a disaster might happen.

'Even Newer Muckspreader'



SIGNAL FAILURES

Focus on Thameslink 2000

THAMESLINK 2000, a rail scheme badly needed by London and the home counties, is a supreme example of Railtrack working in partnership with an irresponsible Tory government and a vacillating Labour one to take transport into the next century.

Shortly before Railtrack was floated in April 1996, the cancellation of £800m of debt suddenly and mysteriously appeared on its balance sheet. The government had written off most of it for a promise from Railtrack to press ahead with Thameslink 2000. In effect taxpayers were paying for the scheme up front — at least 10 years up front, it turns out.

The need for Thameslink 2000 became obvious after BR reopened a derelict rail tunnel between Kings Cross and Blackfriars in the 1980s and began running trains from north to south, connecting previously separate networks. The services were a big success but Thameslink, like most rail schemes of the time, was created on a shoestring. Some relatively straightforward improvements to track and stations (far cheaper than the £1.6bn quoted for a similar cross-capital service between east and west) are needed for growing demand to be met with longer and more frequent trains. The upgrade was christened Thameslink 2000 when unveiled in 1989 as it was expected to be finished before the millennium.

The Tory obsession with chopping up the network for privatisation threw a spanner in the works, but even they recognised the need for Thameslink 2000 when they effectively paid for it in 1996. By then construction was due to start in 1998 and finish by 2002. Railtrack, however, has never been interested in expanding its network and is dragging its feet while the handsome Thameslink 2000 dowry accrues lots of lovely interest.

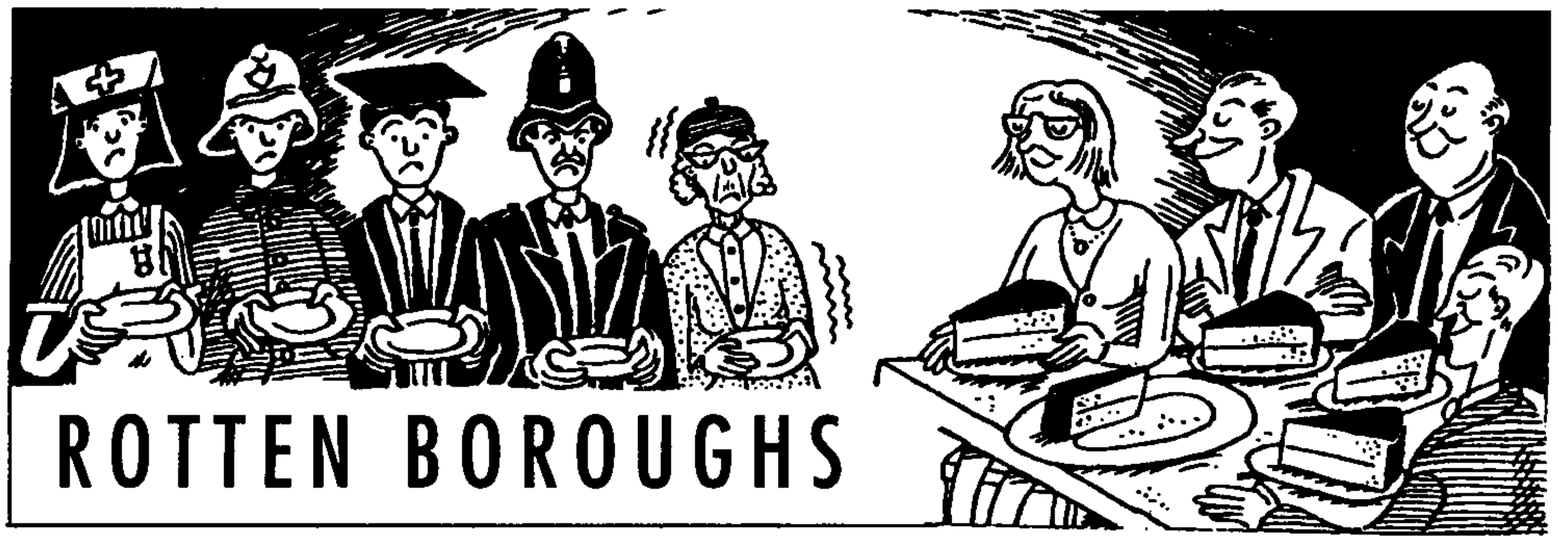
One element — construction of a bigger Kings Cross Thameslink station — has fallen foul of delays to the Channel tunnel rail link. But Railtrack could by now have upgraded tracks south of the river to allow more Thameslink trains and greatly improve Connex South Eastern services to and from Charing Cross.

Thameslink 2000 — unlike the £2.5bn Jubilee Line extension — does not have a station at the Millennium Dome and the Labour government, elected on promises of a publicly accountable and better rail system, is thus in no hurry to see it under way. Transport minister Glenda Jackson, whose constituency lies on the Thameslink route, has revealed that the government will not decide whether to hold a public inquiry on Thameslink 2000 until 9 December. Railtrack happily admits the scheme will not now be completed until 2006.

Jackson explained: "The reason for the deferral is simply that Railtrack wants more time to revise their (sic) proposed works at a number of locations." She could have said: "Railtrack wants more time to earn interest on the £650m already paid to it by the public."

'Dr. B. Ching.'

"I'd most like a One-2-One with the person I'm trying to call"



GARDEN SPAT

THE philosophy that inspired the Westminster homes for votes scandal in the 1980s — some residents are much more equal than others — still flourishes in the Tory-controlled borough.

In the late 1980s Westminster inherited a number of former GLC council flats, including a row of Edwardian semis in Carlton Vale, Paddington. The council set about selling them, natch, and now most are in private hands.

In one house the only council tenant remaining is Frederick Bailey, 74, who has lived in the "garden" (semi-basement) flat for 41 years. In all that time Mr Bailey has had sole use of the flat's small garden, which he has turned into something of a showpiece. Indeed, sole use of the garden was a term of his original rental agreement in 1958.

One of Mr Bailey's upstairs neighbours, however, on buying the lease to his flat began to covet the garden so lovingly tended by Mr Bailey and demanded access to it. Westminster council housing department promptly decreed that it was a "communal" garden — even though it never has been and no mention is made of the garden in any of the other upstairs residents' leases.

In a breathtakingly heartless move, Westminster changed the lock on the garden gate while Mr Bailey, who suffers from heart trouble, was in hospital earlier this year. He says: "I am a council tenant, that's their problem. Frankly they would prefer it if all tenants were leaseholders."

Westminster says it is "not harassing Mr Bailey". Of course not. It just looks that way.

● WESTMINSTER council's press office meanwhile is in the bad books of the ruling Tories over its daily "press monitor" briefing for officers and members.

The briefing details all mentions of the council in the press. But it seems the coverage is sometimes too thorough. The edition of 25 February was hastily pulled after it was noticed that it included a story from *Eye* 970 — about how Westminster's lord mayor designate Cllr Alex Segal had voluntarily withdrawn as a lay magistrate pending an investigation by the lord chancellor's department into allegations of a conflict of interest in the granting of liquor licences.

Fortunately the briefing was later released minus the offending *Eye* item.

STUPID KENT

HUNDREDS of old people are facing an uncertain future as Kent county council makes a shambles of plans to sell off 24 homes for the elderly.

A year after the original decision, no buyer has been found for the homes, which the Tory council hoped would raise some £12m, and some may have to close. So disastrous was the first attempt to sell the homes the tendering process had to be reopened — at a cost to the council so far of £78,200 (£34,500 for "professional advice", £23,700 for m'learned friends and £20,000 for "officer time").

Just as worried as the residents are the homes' 800 staff whose jobs are on the line. Kent assured them, when the sell-off plan was announced, that any new employer would take over responsibility for their pensions. This assurance has had a hollow ring to it since staff discovered that prospective buyers have been invited to make two bids — one taking potential pension commitments into account and the other, er, not.

● DEPUTY prime minister John Prescott has refused to "call in" the controversial planning application by Leeds Sporting, owners of Leeds United FC, for a huge sports and leisure complex (*Eye* 961). His decision has dismayed people living near the site, who already suffer the disruption caused by regular 35,000 crowds at Elland Road.

Protesters had hoped Prescott would save them from a traffic nightmare instead of leaving the planning decision to Labour-controlled Leeds city council which, as a major shareholder in Leeds Sporting, has a financial interest in the scheme. At least councillors' free tickets to Leeds games look safe.

TAKEN TO THE CLEANERS

THERE's an expensive mess in the Valleys after the departure of Carole Linnell, hired last year as a cleaning consultant by Rhondda Cynon Taff council at £250 a day.

Ms Linnell was taken on for two weeks but ended up staying for a year at a cost to the council of £54,728 in fees, accommodation and expenses. The ruthless new broom sacked cleaners and slashed the hours of those who remained. At the end of the year the building cleaning section of the direct labour department was proudly able to announce... a deficit of £87,000.

● DEREK HATTON may no longer rule on Murkeyside, but his spirit lives on.

Enthusiasts for Liverpool's Victorian heritage, such as the Save Our City campaign, were heartened when Lib-Dems took over the city council, expecting that serviceable and worthwhile buildings such as the unlisted former Pupil-Teacher college in Clarence Street could be spruced up for another 100 years' use.

Its owner, Liverpool Community College, however, plans to demolish it and erect an "exciting" (yawn) new college building. A pity, considering that sad, ravaged Liverpool is full of empty sites on which such a state-of-the-art jobbie could rise. But no. Despite many protests the egregious Lady Doreen Jones, the Lib-Dems' planning chairman, seems keen to emulate Degsy and bulldoze the past.

*"A little **old** to be in a pub, aren't you?"*

Pseuds Corner

He [Shakespeare] moves through all with a vehement and flexible control. He turns and bites his own tail. He defecates on his own carpet. He repeats the Bible sideways. He disdains the communication cord and life-belt. He scratches his head with an iceberg.

HAROLD PINTER
" Loving Shakespeare", Los Angeles Times

No, you've seen the last of Little Me: all that's left, I hope, is my Talent — why I went into the racket in the first place — brought to bear on things that matter. I always dreamed of a world without Me: it's the oceanic bliss we Communists, alone, feel. And now, at last, it might come true. It'll be a wrench and a half, but I'll get there, day by day; with You, and without Me.

JULIE BURCHILL
Guardian

For, while Bluewater is "the most powerful retail engine built at any one time in Europe", Kuhne says it also "translates the core values of Western society

into architecture." It realises Franklin D Roosevelt's four fundamental freedoms. It will manifest the "greatest single human act" which "is to create by volition a sacred place" which "makes the whole world comprehensible for a single moment."

ERIC R KUHNE
(Architect of the Bluewater shopping centre)
Evening Standard

It was appropriate really, that Kevin Keegan ventured into Old Trafford on St Valentine's Day.

When better for the man who wears his heart on his sleeve like a sponsor's logo, to confirm to the watching nation his love affair with the big footballing occasion.

DAVID MADDOCK
Daily Mirror

CONTRIBUTORS: Anon, Anon, APR, David C. Harris.

£10 paid for entries

Down on the Fish Farm

DINNER party hosts are becoming increasingly puzzled by the serving instructions on some smoked salmon products which now recommend cutting the salmon into thick chunks rather than traditional thin slices. Why the change?

The flesh of much farm salmon sent for smoking is now too flabby to slice because fish farmers are stuffing their fish with a diet high in fish oil — as much as 36 percent — to produce faster growing fish while reducing the feed bills. The effect on the fish is less kind: they spend the whole of their lives suffering from a perpetual dose of the "skitters".

Farmers say a high fish oil diet limits the faeces deposited below rearing cages, reducing environmental degradation. But in reality the salmon produce a vast cloud of shit which wafts undetected around West Highland bathing beaches and beauty spots.

There is, however, another cause of soft flesh in farm salmon that farmers prefer not to talk about: kudoa, a parasite which has appeared in farm salmon in other salmon farming countries. Scotland's producers insist there is no kudoa in their fish, but there are persistent rumours that there is.

'Old Trout'

Letters

Smartin' Amis

Sir,

Is Martin Amis really claiming that no one before 1975 ever used Thackeray's middle name? If so, he is quite simply wrong. In my studies at school and university in the fifties he was given three names as inevitably as were George Bernard Shaw or Robert Louis Stevenson. And the three names are given in every edition of his works that I have seen, including one in my possession dated 1897.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY PATRINOS,

London SE3.

Sir,

So the cleverest boy in the universe claims that the Makepeace never entered the Thackeray before 1975. Is this a Pears Cyclopedia of 1932 I see before me — "William Makepeace Thackeray" — or The Oxford Book of English Verse (1900) — WMT!
The young snapper needs more than his teeth replacing.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FLETCHER,

Via e-mail.

Sir,

Much as it pains me to correct so grand a literary panjandrum as Martin Amis (Letters, Eye 971), his assertion that Hollywood came up with the idea of calling Thackeray "William Makepeace Thackeray" is plain ludicrous. If not in use before his death in 1863, this formulation was certainly going strong a few years afterwards (my Smith, Elder collected edition of 1878/9 is credited to "William Makepeace") and was frequently used by later Thackeray scholars. I wasn't around when Gordon N. Ray published his four-volume Letters of William Makepeace Thackeray in 1945 — neither was Mr Amis — but I don't think there were any complaints.

Yours sincerely,
D.J.TAYLOR,

London SW15.

● *Thanks for the many other letters on a similar theme. Ed.*

Guarding the Guardian

Sir,

You were right and wrong in your Street of Shame note (5 March) about the Guardian lifting a couple of paragraphs from the Evening Standard's story about George Clooney. I had already investigated that and said in the Guardian the previous week, 27 February, that the paper had plagiarised the Standard. I also explained that the guilty party was emphatically not Janine Gibson, our media correspondent. The offending bits were written into her copy by the newsdesk.

Yours sincerely,
IAN MAYES,

Readers' Editor, The Guardian.

Snap shot

Sir,

I have been a great fan of Private Eye ever since I had my first front page on your esteemed organ some 18 years ago.

Back then, when I was just 14 years old, I was delighted to see my picture of Maggie and Dennis Thatcher on the newsstands gracing the Eye's cover. So I was staggered to read in your last issue a snippet describing me as an "infamous photographer" who made the late Princess Diana's life hell.

Just for the record, apart from photographing her during her very public and somewhat controversial relationship with Dodi Fayed, I only photographed her seven times in the preceding seven years — and always in a public place.

This hardly constitutes "hounding" the princess or indeed being "intrusive and hurtful" does it?

Furthermore, I am surprised that the Eye's editor, as a fellow journalist, did not check the veracity of the ridiculous remarks attributed to me regarding Mail on Sunday editor Peter Wright.

Since Mr Wright often publishes my material I naturally have nothing but the highest regard for him. I'm hardly likely to call him "stupid" am I?

I am surprised you couldn't see through this transparent attempt at jealous back-stabbing.

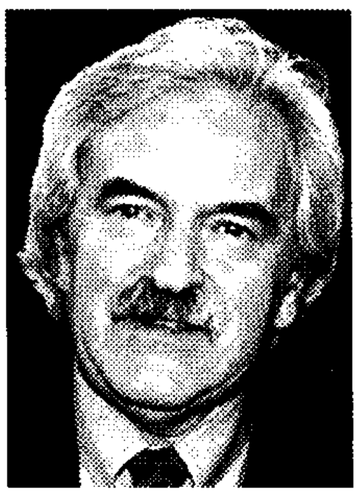
Interestingly, you didn't question my journalistic integrity when as a result of a story I co-wrote for the News of the World Sonia Sutcliffe was finally defeated in the high court. Indeed you were delighted that we had succeeded where your magazine had unfortunately failed in the past.

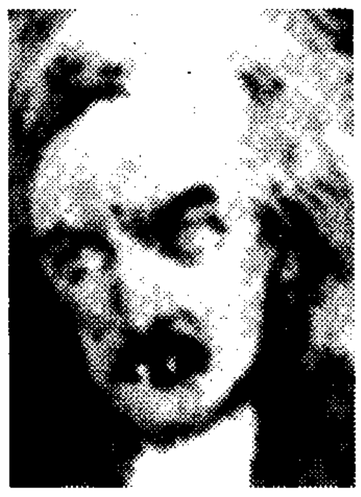
If you are still proud of your own journalistic standards then print this letter.

Yours sincerely,
JASON FRASER,

London SW15.

Lookalike





Sir,

Could Des Lynam be related to anybody?

Best wishes,
TONY GRAY

Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

Count on us

Sir,

You added a convenient zero to your cartoon on the cost of the new BBC World Service branding. It cost £75,000 not £750,000.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN BOOTH,

Controller Marketing, BBC World Service.

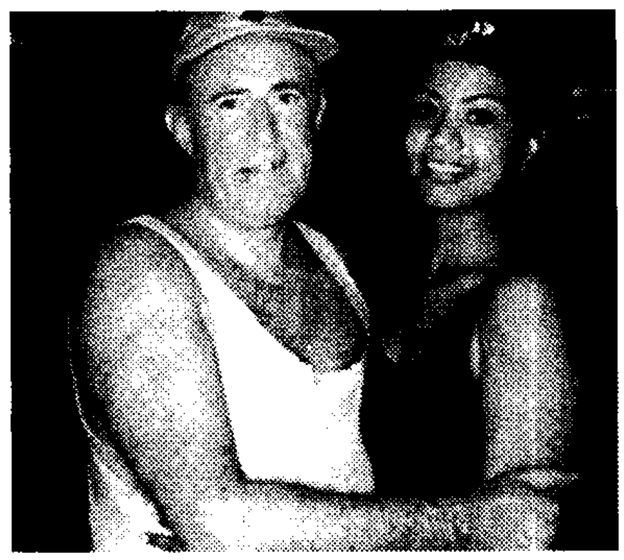
Photo opportunity

Sir,

I was distressed to see on the front page of this morning's newspapers a picture of Prince Charles looking extremely awkward and undignified in the arms of a voluptuous Argentinian dancer. Many middle-aged men would be equally embarrassed in such a position, and I am sure they would take great encouragement from seeing a picture of a middle-aged man reacting to such a situation with poise and dignity. Can Private Eye help?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HALTON,

Via e-mail.



That'll do nicely

Sir,

Your piece about Monsanto making the biodegradable (plant-based) plastic used in the Co-op Bank/Greenpeace credit card doesn't quite finish the story. It's been fun getting Monsanto to guarantee the plastic (called Biopol) is not currently based on genetically engineered (GE) crops. But it is true that Monsanto have been trying to get GE plants to do the job.

However, they recently announced that the GE route is too expensive! Presumably disgusted with this clear example of the failure of genetic engineering, they are putting their Biopol business on the market. So our card remains not only great value, but also a truly environmentally sound, GE-free alternative to (polluting) PVC cards. To get one, call freephone 0800 339922.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,

Executive Director, Greenpeace UK.

Inside Page

Sir,

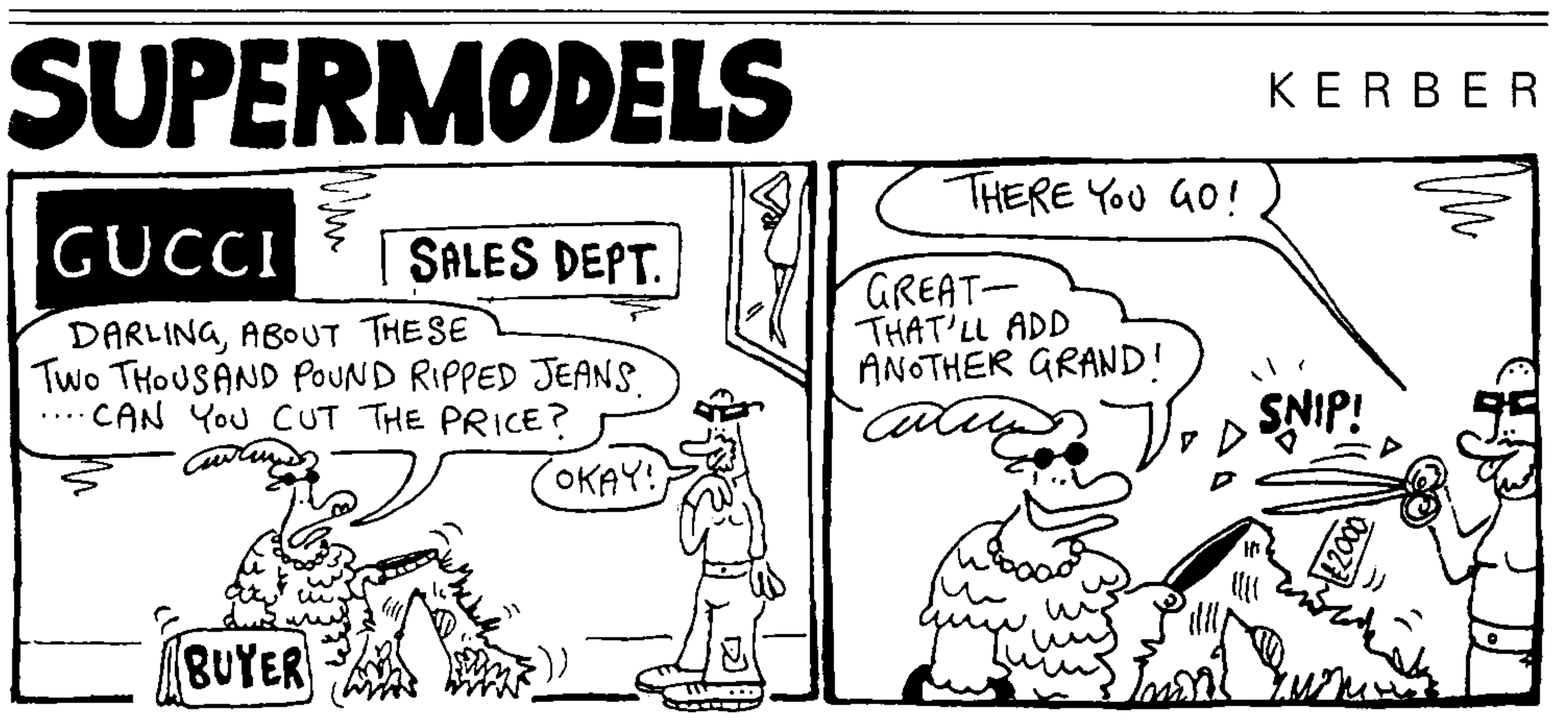
I was fascinated to read in Eye 971 that apparently I forgot to mention my "own stint as a presenter of Countryfile from which he was sacked". Was this at the same time that I was editing the Daily Telegraph, reading The News at Ten, running ICI and taking part in changing the guard at Buckingham Palace? Then of course at weekends I was leading Arsenal to the double and preaching at Canterbury Cathedral, before rushing off to present Countryfile. The problem is, where did the money go? It certainly did not come here.

I was, however, dropped from the BBC's Question Time and Any Questions for being an active member of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party; that in BBC-speak is known as free speech — as long as you do it off the airwaves. Just to remind you — Sir James Goldsmith was the man who sued you for something called libel; and to think that I contributed to the Goldenballs fund!

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN PAGE,

Barton, Cambridgeshire.

● *The stint on Countryfile to which we referred was so shortlived it is not surprising it has slipped Mr Page's mind: in 1990 he was commissioned to present a "special" for the programme on environmental concerns such as global warming. Entitled After the Flood, it was broadcast on 9 September 1990. Mr Page was not, strictly speaking, sacked as he was never given a contract with the programme, his style of presentation not being to the taste of producers who declined to have him back as a regular feature of the show.*



I-SPY *Heathrow*

Submitted by Roger Benner.
£10 paid for similar submissions.
(SAE required for return of photographs. No transparencies.)

McToffee-nosed

Sir,

I wish to correct a number of misunderstandings in your recent Street of Shame item on how the Edinburgh Evening News was supposedly duped by a group of Edinburgh students into believing they were young aristocrats who lived high on the hog.
We did carry a feature on moneyed undergraduates in the city, and they did try to pass themselves off as young aristos, but their ruse was rumbled before we went to print. While they did make some extravagant claims, the identities and backgrounds in the article were entirely accurate.
You also claim that our reporter failed to find the new Marquess of Bristol. That is true to the extent that she did not set out to find him. He had already been traced by another reporter for an earlier news story and she was preparing a follow-up feature on other students of substance.
Far from us being embarrassed, it was the perpetrators of the attempted ruse who were left red-faced, but who at least had the decency to apologise to our reporter when their true identities were uncovered.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN McLELLAN,

Editor, Edinburgh Evening News.

4.00 Michael Cole *I Was A Man, Now I'm A Woman*: Chat with the ex-director of public affairs for Harrods. ***8116133***

News of the World

Vital statistics

Sir,

The first entry in Pseuds Corner (Eye 971) was not the usual load of hermetic language concealing an incapacity for communication and real thought, rather a description of a statistical process. I would suggest that you get your payment back and employ someone who is numerate to vet contributions like this rather than the usual bunch of arts grads who have trouble with percentages.

TONY HILLS,

Harpenden, Herts.

LUVVIES

"Celebrity is bestial. It is the worst form of Karma, because of the huge solitude it brings. You are like a gazelle that finds itself straying from the flock. Soon your path is cut off by lions."

BRAD PITT
Empire

An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.

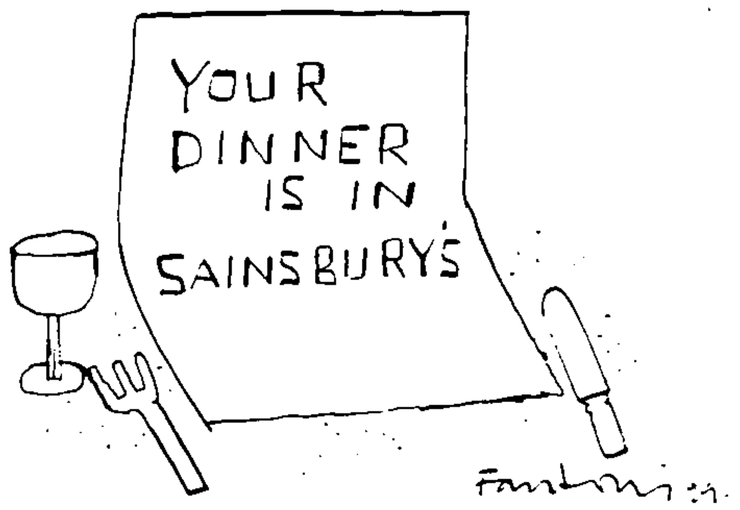
Snow bawled out

Sir,

The cartoon on page 19 (Eye 971) "Alpine Ski Wear" was just plain sick. Not funny, not satirical. It wasn't big and it wasn't clever. Why can't you realise that some things — like children dying in avalanches — is not a reason for printing a third rate cartoon. If it had been your child who died would you have printed it? I think not.

Yours
PAUL HOLLAND,

Via e-mail.



Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"There is Michael Schumacher. He's actually in a very good position indeed. He's in last place."
MURRAY WALKER, ITV
(Steve Catling)

"...Leicester have achieved a centenary of tackles..."
STUART BARNES, Sky Sports
(J.A.Morgan)

"I think the referee should be allowed to blow up now — as a mercy killing, if you like."
RON ATKINSON, ITV
(G.Aldridge)

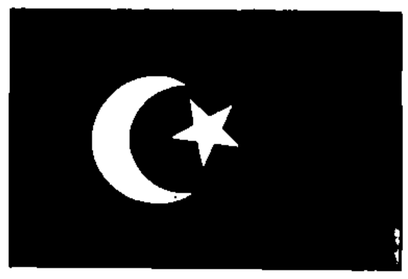
"Goals change games."
RON ATKINSON, ITV
(Dr. Alex May)

Lady Tavistock: *I was once offered a blank cheque for this horse.*
Interviewer: *A blank cheque....how much was it for?*
Lady Tavistock (sounding puzzled): *It was a blank cheque.*
"The House", BBC2
(T.Pendry)

HOM SAP

AUSTIN

A GOOD MANAGER WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY..
" ESPECIALLY WHEN THINGS GO WRONG.
SO MAKE SURE TO GET ONE ON YOUR STAFF.
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE SCRATCH



Letter from **Istanbul**
from Our Own Correspondent

THESE are not good times for Kurds or the lawyers who represent them. The arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) leader, by Turkish intelligence in mid-February led to a crackdown on Kurdish activists and 30,000 people were detained nationwide by the end of the month.

Ocalan's lawyers Ahmed Okcuoglu, Hatice Korkut and Osman Baydemir have protested repeatedly about his treatment in his island prison. Though Turkish law protects the right of prisoners to be interviewed in private and bans the military from such interviews, Ocalan's team was not allowed to see him except in a tiny "interrogation room" where he was flanked by two soldiers in balaclavas.

When the lawyers protested to the judge who was present, the judge agreed with the complaint and ordered the soldiers out. They refused to move. "We are under the orders of the army general staff," they explained, indicating that the army here is far more influential than the judiciary.

Ocalan's lawyers were then asked to sign documents drawn up by the prison authorities giving their client a clean bill of health. When they refused they were physically attacked. Moreover, whenever they appeared in the street they were surrounded by a mob of thugs who had plainly been told their whereabouts.

The lawyers were repeatedly jostled and hit. Though they complained bitterly they report that "no one single official raised a finger to prevent us from being attacked. Neither was anyone brought to justice for the offence. At any moment we may suffer further attacks or even be killed." When Mr Baydemir protested in a press release he was arrested and banged up in a cell for five hours.

Of the 30,000 Kurdish detainees, many were members of the pro-Kurdish political party People's Democracy (HADEP), which looked set to win the majority of parliamentary seats in the troubled south east at the general election scheduled for 18 April.

However, even when arrested and behind bars Kurdish activists are not safe from being rearrested and tried all over again. Leyla Zana, Orhan Dogan, Hatip Dicle and Selim Sadak, once Turkish parliamentary deputies with HADEP's banned predecessor DEP, went on trial on 3 March in Ankara Central Closed Prison. They were accused of "helping a separatist organisation" (the PKK) by sending a message of support to a HADEP meeting, and face sentences of between three and five years.

But at the trial chief justice Mehmet Turgut Oktay said the four had written to the court saying they would not be able to attend as, regrettably, they were already in jail serving long terms for previous political statements. Disappointed, the court then charged four people who were still at large and able to attend: members of the Mesopotamia Musical Group who had played songs during the aforesaid meeting. These dangerous merchants of the finger drum and three-string guitar also face prison terms for their part in trying to overthrow the Turkish republic using folk music.

In fact the whole of HADEP now faces arrest. State prosecutor Vural Savas, who last year banned the pro-Islamist Welfare Party despite its being the largest group in parliament, has moved to ban HADEP and is seeking an injunction to stop it standing in elections.

This leaves Kurdish voters in a quandary as the more moderate Democratic Mass Party (DKP), the only other pro-Kurdish party in Turkey, was also banned this month.

To counter the dearth of parties a replacement group has been set up called DEHAP. If Kurdish people are forbidden from voting for it too, many are likely to vote instead for the pro-Islamist Welfare Party's successor, the Virtue Party, which usually comes second in southeastern constituencies.

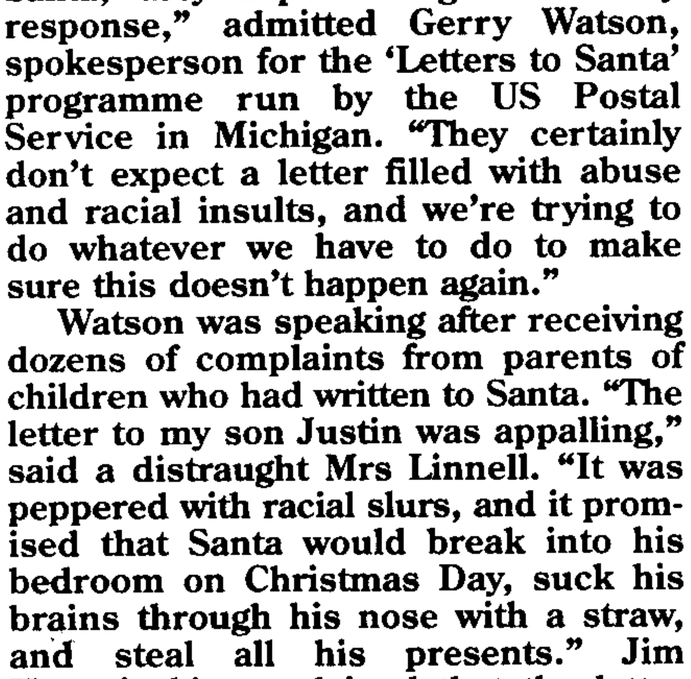
Not that this will perturb Savas who, asked about the banning of the popular Welfare Party, said "even if 99 percent of the Turkish people voted for them, I would still ban them". It seems Kurdish votes count for even less.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

● "When little children mail a letter to Santa, they expect to get a cheery response," admitted Gerry Watson, spokesperson for the 'Letters to Santa' programme run by the US Postal Service in Michigan. "They certainly don't expect a letter filled with abuse and racial insults, and we're trying to do whatever we have to do to make sure this doesn't happen again."

Watson was speaking after receiving dozens of complaints from parents of children who had written to Santa. "The letter to my son Justin was appalling," said a distraught Mrs Linnell. "It was peppered with racial slurs, and it promised that Santa would break into his bedroom on Christmas Day, suck his brains through his nose with a straw, and steal all his presents." Jim Kryzwiecki complained that the letter his son Jimmy had received was even worse. "It called him a dirty little Polack, and told him that Santa didn't like him and certainly wasn't going to bring him any presents. Then Santa



threatened to eat his dog unless he left some pickled bologna out on the kitchen table on Christmas Eve. I suppose it's someone's idea of a joke, but what sick weirdo would do something like that? And charge us $9.99?" *(Brisbane Sunday Mail, 20/12/98. Spotter: Norm Reynolds)*

—●—

● "Editorial — Trade in Human Skin Most Shocking. Killings on grounds of superstition have become a common phenomenon in Tanzania, especially in Shinyanga Region, and it is high time it stopped. Thousands of elderly people, particularly women, have been murdered in cold blood because they happened to have red eyes or simply because they were old people, who, in the eyes of the murderers, were witches bewitching their children or relatives.

In Kigoma, bald-headed people are on the wanted list of some superstitious crooks who are said to believe that the bald heads will boost their luck or protect them in their legal business like fishing, or illegal business like smuggling. It is not known how many people have been murdered for their bald heads.

Recently, the local press reported on some mortuary attendants and traditional medicine men who were trading in human parts. As if this is not shocking enough, this week Tanzanians heard of another horrifying incident, this time in Mbeya, where the police are holding four people who were found in possession of a human skin. The suspects have admitted to killing and skinning one Enock Simkoko, 26, using a hammer. The skins of their first two victims, killed in Rukwa, were sold in neighbouring Zambia for 8m/-. The suspects were arrested in Tunduma, Mbozi District, when they were taking the third skin across the border into Zambia, where there is a ready market for human skins.

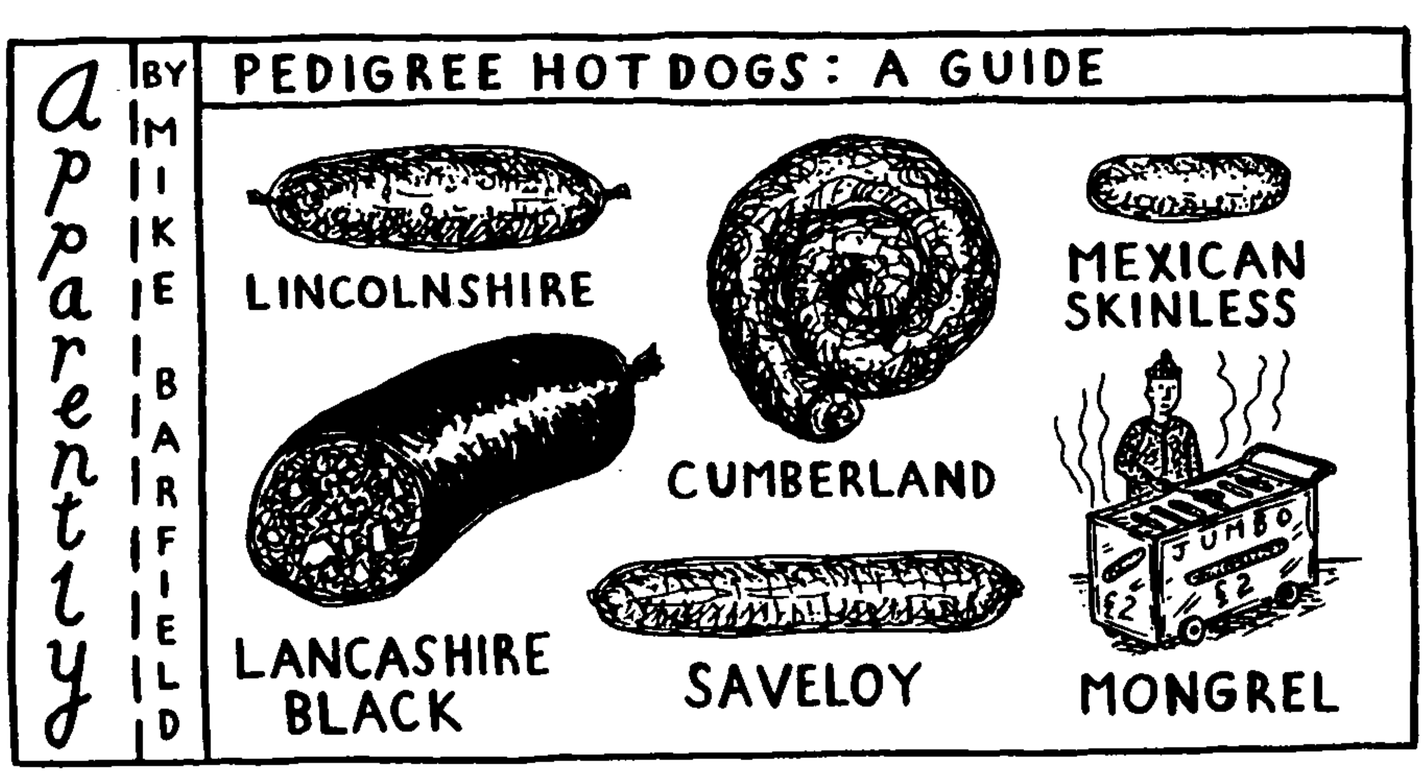
We condemn the act in the strongest possible terms, and hope the police will see to it that the culprits get the punishment they deserve. Without putting an end to this human skin business, the people in Mbeya and Rukwa regions will live in perpetual fear, and the two regions may become a no-go area. Beware. The man next to you may have a hammer." *(Sunday Observer [Tanzania], 24/1/99. Spotter: Garry Pett)*

—●—

● *"Listen. Before my grandfather died, he did witchcraft on me," twenty-two-year-old Biau Severo from Nabunikadamo told a Fijian court. "These days, the curse comes when it pleases, and it makes me do strange things. When I was baptised at the age of three, the church minister made a mistake. He did not pour water on me to baptise me, but he poured a bucket of yaqona [alcohol] on me to baptise me instead, and the devil came on me. Because of this mistake by the church minister and witchcraft by my grandfather, I had to molest the young girl. I had no choice."*

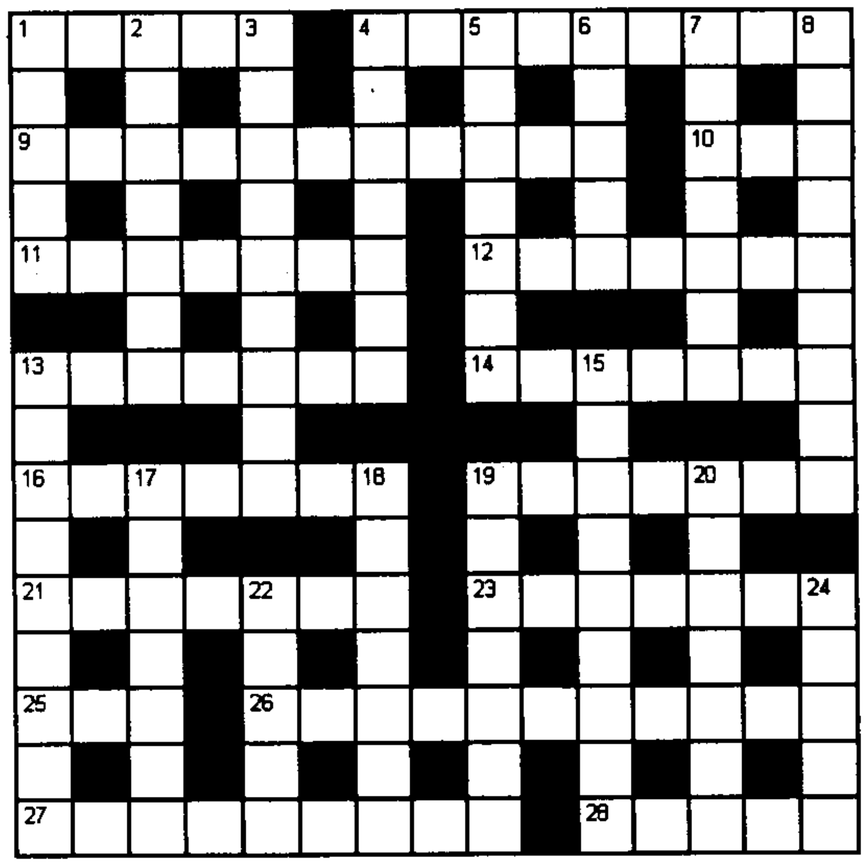
Passing judgement, Magistrate Syed Mukhtar Shah said: "When I was baptised, they put yaqona on me too, and that yaqona is telling me to put you in prison for two years. The devil that came on me as a result of yaqona being poured on me does not tolerate child molestation. I am tired of being told that witchcraft or devils are forcing people to break the law, and any accused found guilty of molesting girls will be joking if he asks for leniency on such grounds. For such people, the only place is in prison, with bigger devils."

Severo was jailed for two years. (Fiji Times, 27/1/99. Spotter: David Martin)



EYE CROSSWORD 127

by Cyclops *£100 prize*



ACROSS

1 Pinochet helping woman inside (5)
4 Very much what the right size of bra cups should do (3,2,4)
9 Not speaking on popular good and out of order PC-wise, but appealing to the undiscerning (7,4)
10/24 God's House for the elevated (3,5)
11 Soper uncertain about Church status symbol (7)
12 Other half of boring idiot endlessly after a bit! (7)
13 Top politician: "Love to be gobbled by enthusiast" (4,3)
14 Familiar war criminal desperado *Vanessa* ropes in (7)
16 Suckers need sexy picture for official purposes (7)
19 Female going to work half pissed, high and affectedly elegant (7)
21 Magritte spliced and restored (7)
23 Ken, complete told-you-so pain in the arse (4-3)
25 One of many crafty observations of cranks? (3)
26 Someone like Chris Evans – vulgar tosser (11)
27 Impression about Spielberg's film: blunder, a turn-off (9)
28 Holding pole, craftily changes course, and shows willingness to go to bed (5)

DOWN

1 Cavorting nude and Prince, arse in the air (3,2)
2 Commonplace stink associated with rap (7)
3 'Tarzan' style member's cover-up ...? (9)
4 ... or 'Eden' style member's cover-up (3,4)
5 One who swears stupid report is about sod all (7)
6 Admit Brenda is a person of property (5)
7 Peter's awful sin out: going to vice capital (7)
8 Foreigners cutting about Cook losing head (3,6)
13 Useless one going on stage to arse about (3,6)
15 (see 17)
17/15 What the threat of airstrikes amounts to: US ready briefly to meet UN with craft and tact? (7,9)
18 A little Teletubby to the French is not yet a true frog (7)
19 Didn't really come to confuse fat kid about Ecstasy (5,2)
20 Liberal seat win gets you all troubled (2,1,4)
22 Net upside down about German scorer (5)
24 (see 10)

£100 prize to first solution opened on 26.3.99. Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG.

Solution to Crossword No. 126

Winner: MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER

ACROSS: 1/28 Compassionate Conservatism 10 Smart-arse 11 Bowls 12 Realist 13 Tobacco 14 Rostrum 16 Atheist 18 Worship 20 Epigram 22 Riposte 24 Clobber 26 Email 27 Idealists 28 (see 1).

DOWN: 2 Omaha 3 Patriarch 4 Scrotum 5 Inertia 6 Nabob 7 Town crier 8 Usurer 9 Escort 15 Strappado 17 Hoi polloi 18 Warder 19 Premier 20 Excreta 21 Morass 23 Seles 25 Bosom.

EXCLUSIVE

M.P. FOUND IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

by Our Political Staff **Huge Montgomery-Massagebird**

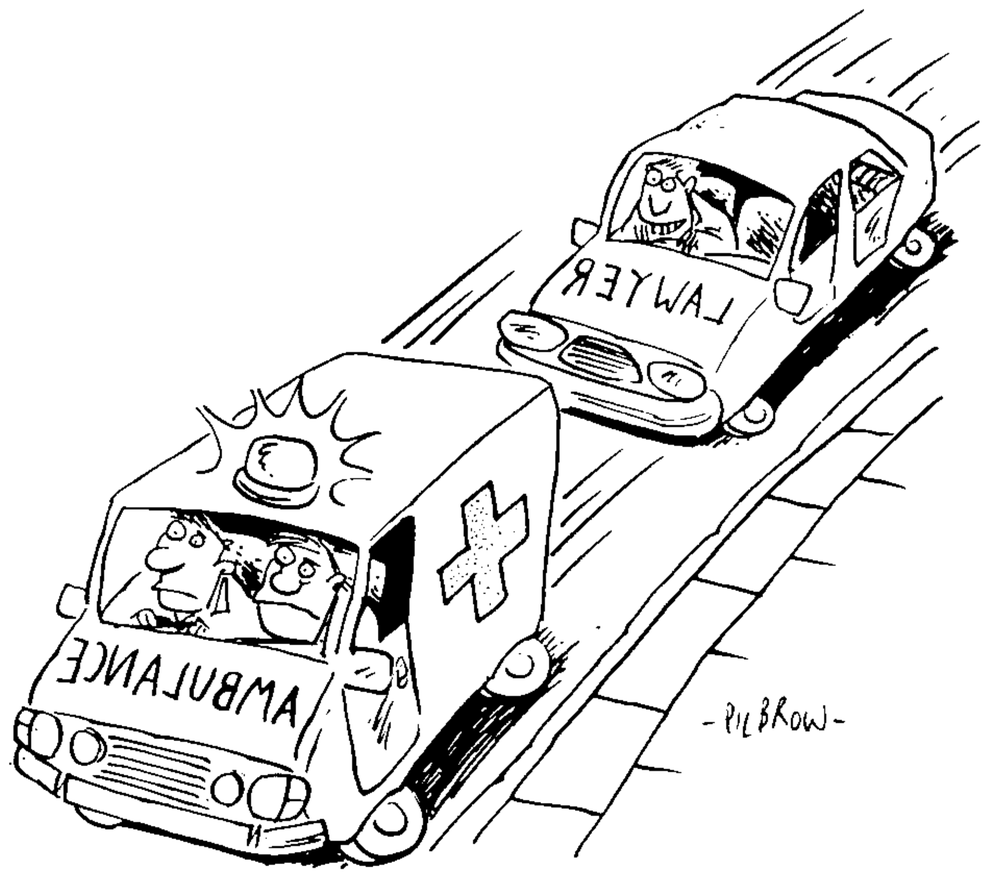
A SENIOR labour figure was discovered last night in a seedy Westminster establishment frequented by low-life men and women imported from the Midlands to massage Tony Blair's ego.

Said the unnamed M.P. Joe Ashton "Yes I was there. I see nothing wrong in that. It is perfectly legal to attend the House of Commons, particularly as they have late sessions."

HANDSARD JOB

He continued, "After a stressful day in the massage parlour you can lie on a nice leather bench and relax. The speeches just wash over you and the soothing hot air soon takes all your cares away."

Joe Ashton is 69



THOSE OBITUARIES IN FULL

Alexander Walker remembers Stanley Kubrick

I well remember the time when I visited Kubrick who was delighted to see me. "You're one of my favourite reviewers", he said. "You have changed the face of cinema criticism. I am delighted to meet such a legendary figure as yourself even though you are something of a recluse." It was then that Kubrick commissioned me to write a get well message to be used on a shot of a greetings card for a film he was planning but unfortunately was never made *(cont. p.94)*

Humphrey Burton remembers Lord Menuhin

I well remember the time when I first spoke to Lord Menuhin, or Yehudi as I came to know him, over the several minutes I spent on the phone trying to set up an interview with him for my book. He knew my work of course and admitted to being something of a fan. "I love your films," he said "and your books. You have inspired countless generations of musicians, artists and politicians. To think that your genius was recognised even as a five year old when you first wrote 'What I did in my holidays' (9/10) and were highly praised by Mrs Warburg" *(cont. p.94)*

NEW-LOOK QUEEN MOTHER

No. 94: The £4 million turf accountancy debt crisis

HARRODS SALE

Advertisement

SITUATIONS VACANT

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Applications are invited for this prestigious post. Candidates will be expected to have first class accountancy skills, experience in resource management coordination, a wide knowledge of information technology implementation and a large number of suits.

Knowledge of broadcasting not essential.

This is an equal opportunity post. Anyone who is useless may apply.

Starting salary: in the region of £350,000 per annum (plus chauffered car for self, partner and dog).

Apply to Sir Christopher Bland enclosing a c.v. and proof that you are an old friend of his.

ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo!

It's nice to see Mr Brown getting so much richly deserved praise for his annual presentation of the church's finances!

And how pleased we all were to see the annual picture of him and Miss Macaulay together in the local paper!

Gordon tells me he is very keen on "the family". But I had to point out to him that, even these days, it is usual to get married first before having one! (Though not essential — it's important not to be judgemental on these matters — as we all know, it is equally valid to have a meaningful relationship with a partner, same sex or otherwise, or indeed not to have a partner at all!)

I would like to be the first to congratulate Gordon for doing everything I suggested to balance the books. Well done!

But before people get too carried away in hailing Gordon as some kind of a genius, over a few drinks in the Cool Britannia Arms, we must remember that Gordon is a member of a team, as he would be the first to acknowledge (I hope!).

So if he is tempted to feel pleased with himself, which I am sure he won't, he would do well to remember that it is the team which has done well. The real credit must go to the leader of the team, whoever that may be!

Because the leader is the person

who picks the team. So people like Gordon would be nowhere if it wasn't for the person who chose him in the first place!

Didn't we all sing that wonderful chorus at last Sunday's Youth Service?

"I am the leader, the leader,
the leader of the gang
I am."

(Words and Music G.Glitter, arr. T.Blair)

So let's hear no more about "Flash Gordon" or "The Scottish Wizard"!

I'm sure Gordon would be the first to admit that this kind of silly adulation is extremely unhelpful and very much against the spirit of St.Albion's, which is to give credit where it is really due!

Your friend and Saviour

Tony

(Not Gordon!)

To Remember In Your Prayers

● Our very good friends the Rev. William Jefferson Clinton of the Church of the Seven Day Fornicators and his future ex-wife Hillary, who are facing a bit of a rocky patch in their marriage (or not as the case may be, it's not really any of our business after all!). Anyway, let us pray that Hillary will learn to follow the example of the Blessed Tammy of Wynette, who taught us to "Stand by your Man" and warned us of the perils of "D.I.V.O.R.C.E"!

● We also remember Cathy Woodhead, the former wife of our popular school inspector Chris. May she learn the virtue of silence. It really doesn't help to drag up the past, as if it had some relevance to the great work that Chris has been doing with the Sixth-formers at St Albion's School for girls. She could learn from the mistakes of Margaret Cook, who has become a laughing stock in the parish for spreading rumours about Robin, in an effort to undermine his very happy new marriage to Gaynor. I am sorry, Margaret, but as you may realise from Robin's high standing in the parish, he's had the last laugh! T.B.

TEXT OF THE WEEK

(chosen by Mr Gordon Brown)

"The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away — often at the same time without you noticing it."

Book of Miras, 7.13

RECIPE OF THE DAY

Sent in by Mr Michael
(Conductor of the St Albion's Welsh Male Voice Choir)

Beef-Off-The-Bone

Ingredients:

1 Bone
1 Plate of Beef

Place beef in mouth. Then deny eating it.
Serves no purpose.

Thanks, Alan! TB

Advertisement

TO LET

PALAZZO FRIBI, situated on Italy's famous Costa Niente. Palatial home of the FRIBI family since 1957. Sleeps 300, with own beach, lake, golf course and helipad. Would suit British vicar and family. No others need apply. Rent 0 lira per week (payable in euros).

Verses From A Local Businessman

Contributed by M.Heseltine

Although I am not a regular member of his congregation, I would like to commend the Rev. A.R.P. Blair for his sensible stand on closer links with our European friends.

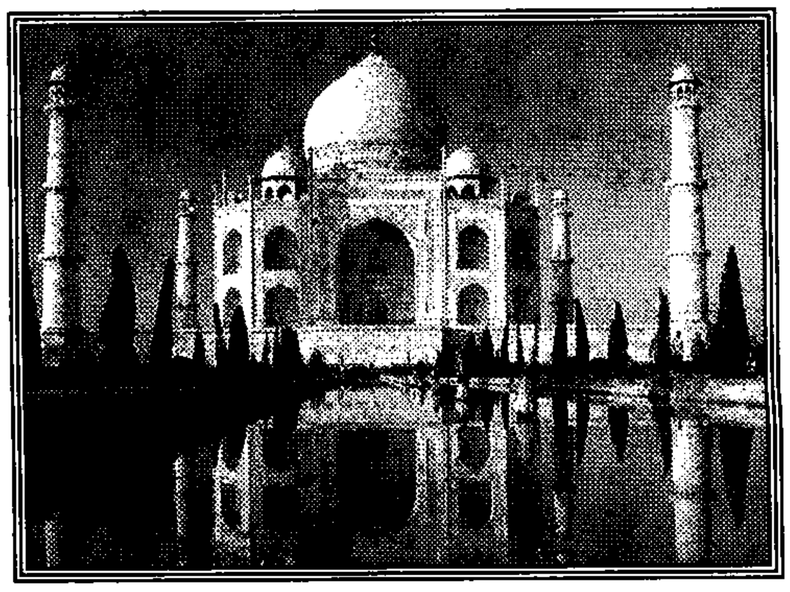
P.S. I am obviously not much of a poet but I am a very busy man and I have not got time to think out a lot of silly rhymes. The important thing is to annoy that little squit William Hague from the sixth form debating society.

MH, The Huge House,
Tarzan Crescent.

A POSTCARD FROM MR. PRESCOTT

We received the following postcard from Mr.Prescott of the Working Men's Club, who has been on a two week fact-finding holiday in India. He writes:

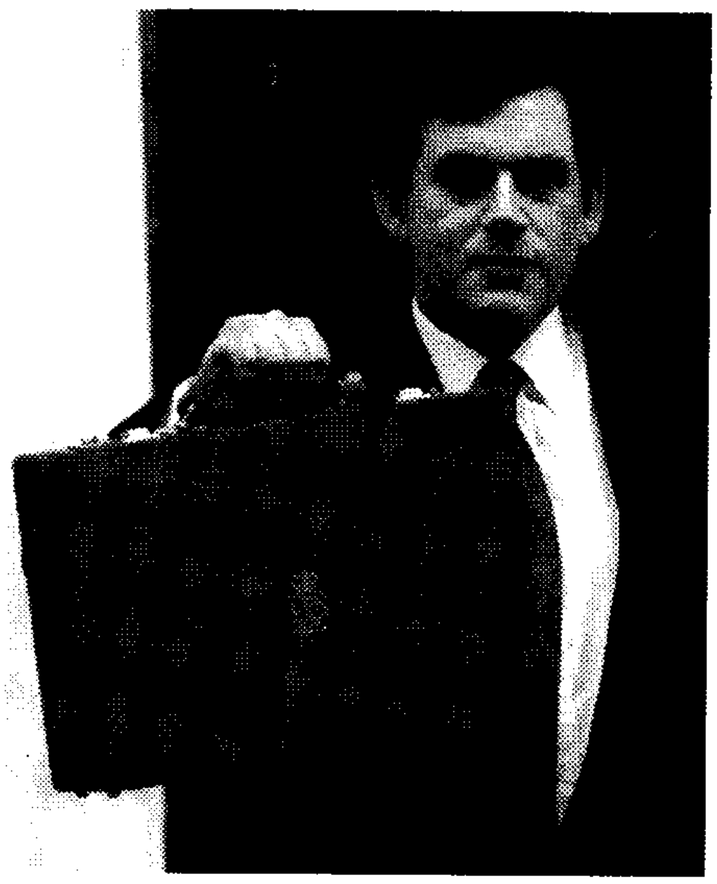
As you can see, the missus and I are taking a leaf out of your book, Tony, and skiving off on an all-expenses-paid



This postcard has had to be cut for reasons of space. A.Campbell, Editor.

YES! IT'S BROWN NOSE DAY!

by Our Entire Staff



TODAY is the day when journalists up and down the whole country cast aside their usual hard-heartedness and happily write sycophantically generous pieces about Gordon Brown.

Producing headlines like "Flash Gordon!", "Gordon Bless you" and "Vote New Labour", hacks are delighted to join in the nationwide celebrations of the Budget.

And there are endless ways to join in the "Brown-nosing"! Some reporters come up with pieces saying Gordon has produced the most redistributive Budget ever! Others say that he has produced a classic Conservative incentive to business!

But who cares how they do it, provided that at the end of the day the result is the same — millions and millions of pieces that will make "Brown Nose Day" the funniest day of the year!

YOUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO BUDGET '99

■ Everyone in Britain will be better off as a result of Gordon Brown's giveaway budget, except for those who will be poorer.

Check our easy-to-use interactive guide to see how your finances will be affected.

1 Man earning £11,412 a year, living with partner in central Solihull, non-smoker, with mortgage, no children, two rottweilers and small car.

Plus £0.35p a week

2 Unemployed single man, living on benefit in Bridgend, smoker with seven children, two unmarried mothers, drink problem and one small stolen car.

Minus £8,906 a year

3 Married man, earning £62,000 a year, living in Guildford with enormous mortgage, two children at university, one pony in paddock at back (Misty) and BMW parked in drive at front.

£5,812 a year better off

4 93-year-old widow, living alone in large house in Berkshire, no mortgage, two parrots and bicycle parked in hall (left by late husband in 1936).

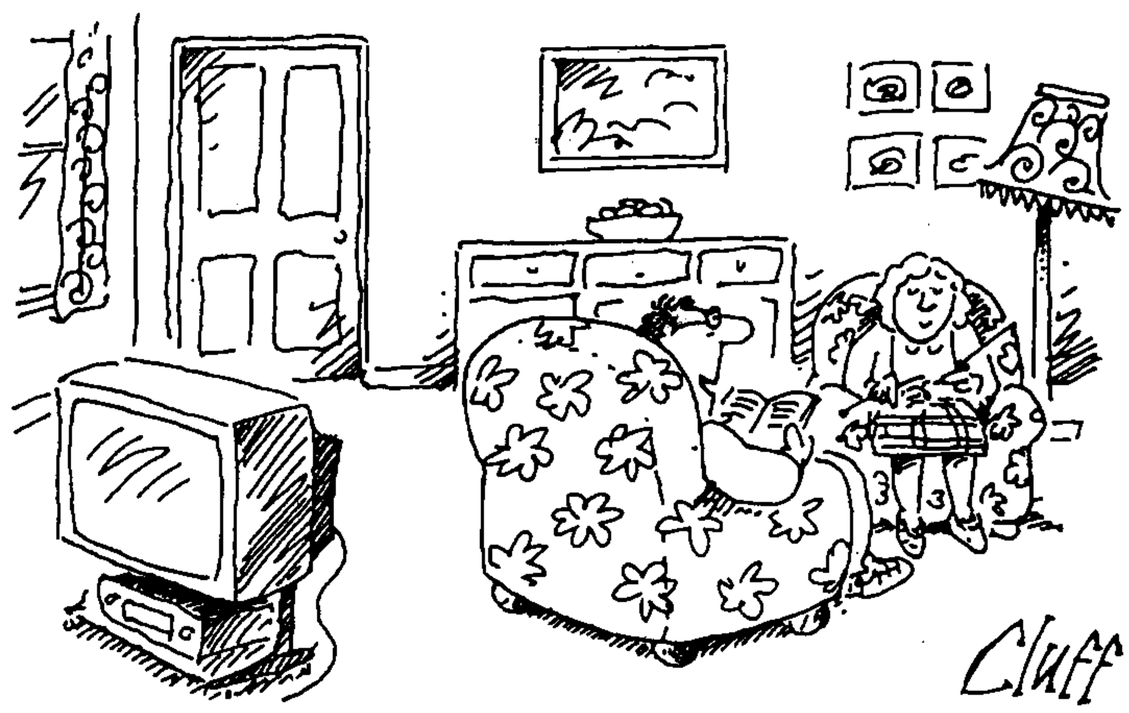
No change

5 82-year-old former dictator, living with Mrs Pinochet in agreeable rented villa in Wentworth, Surrey, no mortgage, bullet-proof car and 79 lawyers to support.

£516,000 a year better off

6 48-year-old bachelor, who refuses to get married to long-time partner, living in Central London in rent-free government accommodation whilst working as Chancellor of the Exchequer, non-smoker, with large chauffeur-driven company car and index-linked pensions.

62% better off in opinion poll



"Maybe there is something in this Feng Shui... I feel better already"

POETRY CORNER

In Memoriam Stanley Kubrick (1931-2001)

So. Farewell then
Stanley Kubrick
Famous film director
And
Inventor of
The Cube.

2001 Dalmatians —
That was your best-known
Film.

Everyone remembers the
Beginning.

Boom-boom-boom-boom-
Boom.
Dum... dum... DA-DA!!!!

Brilliant!

Unfortunately I cannot
Remember
The rest of
The film.

E.J.Thribb (17½)

READERS' QUIZ

Who was the "Headless Man" on whom the late Duchess of Argyll and Sutherland was photographed performing "a sex act" in 1963?

Was it:

(a) Douglas Fairbanks Jr. **7-2**

(b) The Duke of Edinburgh **11-4**

(c) Lord Hailsham **12-1**

(d) Lord Longford **16-1**

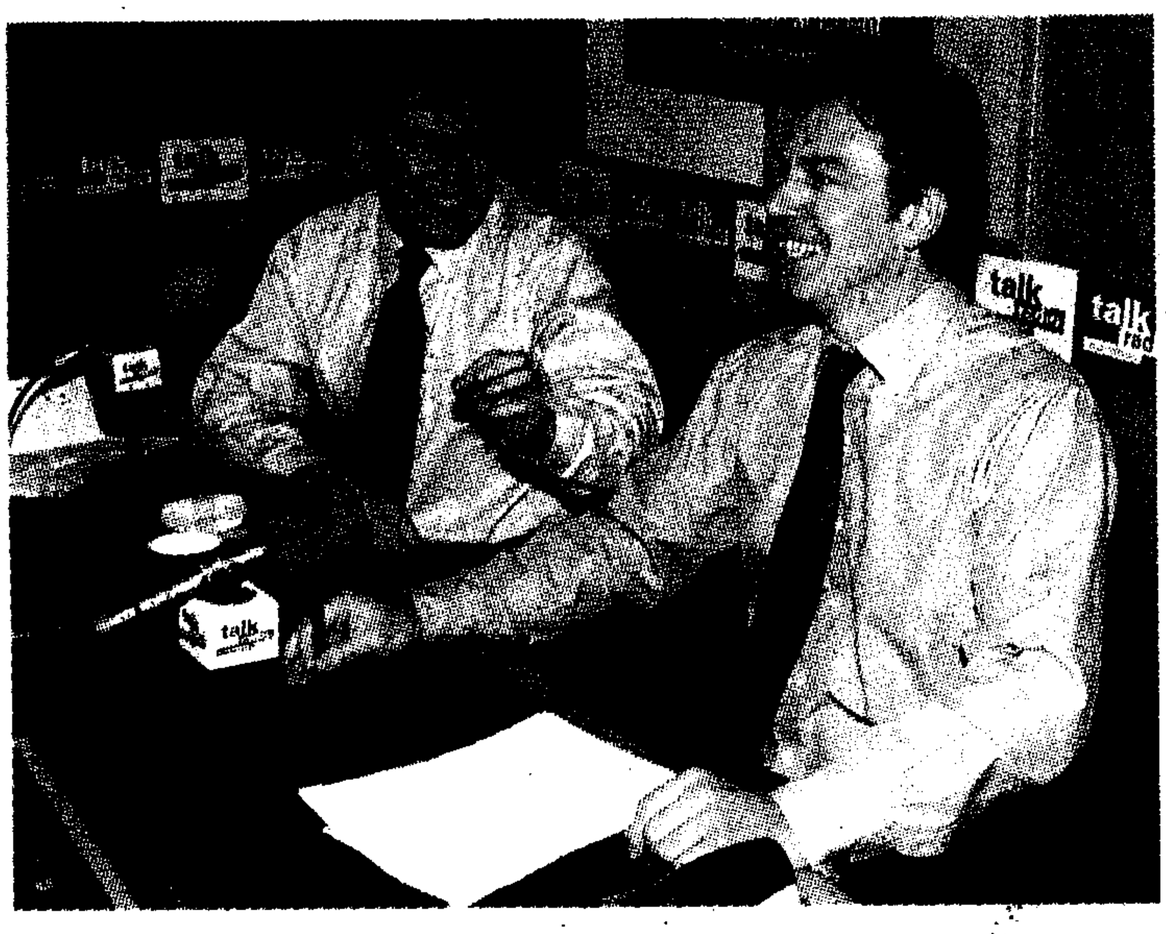
(e) "Sir" David Frost **25-1**

(f) Someone very famous who has died and therefore can't sue when we put it in the book. **1-6 fav**

Put your answer on a postcard and e-mail to the following phone number: 0898-74226, and you will receive a free invitation to buy the book "Who Was The Headless Man?" by A. Hack for only £19.99.

"Bride or groom?"

RADIO HIGHLIGHTS: TALK RADIO



Smarmy & Nicey (played by Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse)

Nicey: Great Budget mate — very charitable.

Smarmy: Very charitable, mate.

Nicey: I love poor people.

Smarmy: I love poor people, too.

Nicey: We're very charitable mate — but we don't want to talk about it.

Smarmy: Talk about what mate?

Nicey: Er... being charitable to the poor and needy, mate.

Smarmy: That's right mate — we don't like to talk about being generous and charitable, unless we're talking about it on radio, television... *(interrupted)*

Nicey: Don't forget newspapers and magazines, mate.

Smarmy: Hey, I wanna word with you mate! Is that you keeping me and the missus girlfriend-type person up all night with that c-rraz-z-zy loud music and the... *(fades into business and finance news)*.

How Sex Makes You Look Younger

By Dr Sigmund Fraud

NEW research has revealed that having sex three times a week in your pages makes your paper look much younger.

Citing the example of the 190-year-old Daily Telegraph, experts say that it only manages to look so young because of the regular inclusion of articles about sex.

Says top sexologist Dr. Charles Moore, "Three times a week is a minimum for a young-looking broadsheet. Ideally I would like to have sex three times a page and then I would look as infantile as the Sun."

Charles Moore is 69.

MAN CLAIMS 'FOOTBALL SLUR' IS RUINING HIS LIFE

By Our Soccer Staff ROBBIE FOUL

A MARRIED father of one today claimed that he was being victimised by bigots because of his lifestyle.

"I am constantly being taunted by prejudiced, small-minded people who accuse me of being a footballer. I am not and never have been."

He continued: "Just because I have a silly haircut, read the Sun newspaper and drink lager, people automatically assume that I am a footballer who likes to kiss other men when they score a goal and then jump naked into a bath with them".

FOOTBORE

The man claimed his family were extremely embarrassed by the persistent rumours that he is a footballer and felt that it was time to put an end to the malicious gossip.

"It is all completely untrue. I have nothing against footballers but I will not tolerate people shouting at me 'on my head', 'stick it in the net' and 'up the Arsenal'."

SNORTING WITH LAUGHTER!

BBC1 Thursday 9.30pm

A team of top comics and celebrities travel to Third World Colombia to find out for themselves how appalling conditions are for the region's cocaine growers. They discover that the simple coke farmers need lots of Western money just to keep going. Without that money they will not be able to grow the top quality narcotics that the TV celebrities have grown to expect. Nor will they be able to buy vital equipment to maintain their livelihoods — such as helicopter gunships, anti-personnel mines and AK47s.

Western governments, led by America, are deliberately trying to withhold the money which the one crop economy badly needs.

But now with the help of the Red Itchy, Sore, Nose team of top TV and film personalities these humble cartel barons can now look forward to a secure future plying their centuries-old trade to the comedy and acting professions of the First World.

● Buy the hit single *"There won't be snow in the Groucho Club at Christmas"*

HUSBAND

Son. Your mum's gone off with Dave Floyd the brickie
It's hard to take .. I'll need your help and support son
Sure Dad
I'll go and get the baseball bats

The Wank has its own devoted fan club.

Thanks to the enterprise of the Wankbahn and the high capacity of 4 ski-lifts, you'll rarely have to queue. The pistes in the Wank area are also kept in superb condition and skiers have the additional reward of the spectacular view.

Skiing in Germany brochure

207.Smoked salmon

208.Ham on penis

209.Asparagus baked in ham

Polish Menu (Warsaw)

"Just a simple outline next time Crabtree, there's a good lad"

TV QUIZ SHOW RIGGED

More Shock Revelations

by Our Showbiz Staff Matthew Parris-Studio

YET ANOTHER popular TV panel game has been exposed as "a complete fraud".

It has been revealed that contestants in the weekly show 'Prime Minister's Question Time' are not only given advance warning of the questions but they are fed the answers by teams of experts behind the scenes.

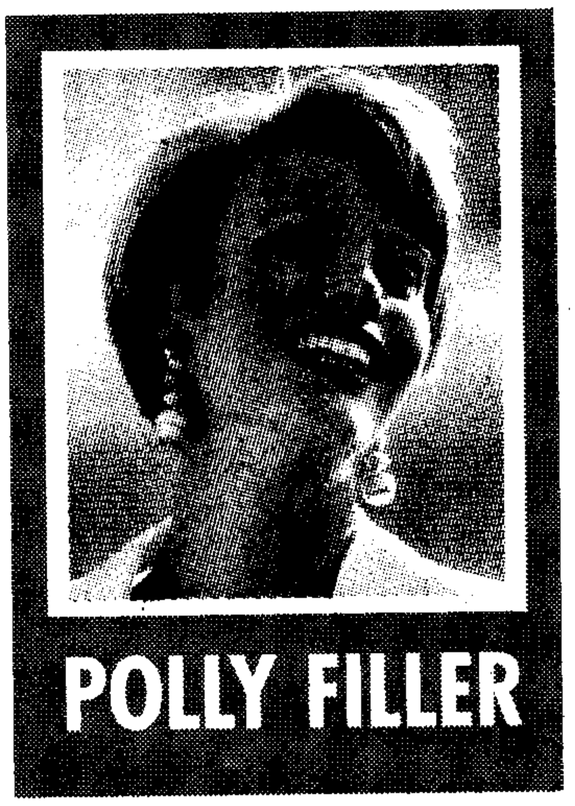
Just a 30 Minutes

In a typical recent exchange between the two team leaders, William Hague asked Tony Blair: "Would the right honourable gentleman tell us precisely how much taxes have been increased since he came to power?"

Quick as a flash, Tony Blair quipped: "I think you'll find that we won the election, not you, you little squit!"

Clearly both question and answer were prepared beforehand, though viewers were led to believe that this was an example of spontaneous parliamentary wit at its finest.

The Eye's Exciting New Columnist!!



CHILDREN nowadays are so demanding. Every year, without fail, they expect a party in their honour — and my toddler Charlie is no exception.

Which makes my life a living hell. For the last 3 weeks its been a non-stop nightmare. Last year we took him out for a treat — dinner at the River Cafe — and the little brat fell asleep without evening touching his oyster and walnut parfait. And we're not having a party at home. Not after Charlie's first birthday when someone was sick all over my carpet. It was my partner Simon actually who had arrived late after an afternoon at Twickenham celebrating some match the result of which he couldn't even remember.

So what do we do? Some unhelpful parents in Charlie's class took a party of twenty to Legoland. Talk about over the top. I tried to book a day trip to Eurodisney for 30 but they were sold out. I told the stupid woman at Eurostar (who didn't appear to know who I was) that this was an emergency but all she could do was rudely apologise to me and offer alternative dates.

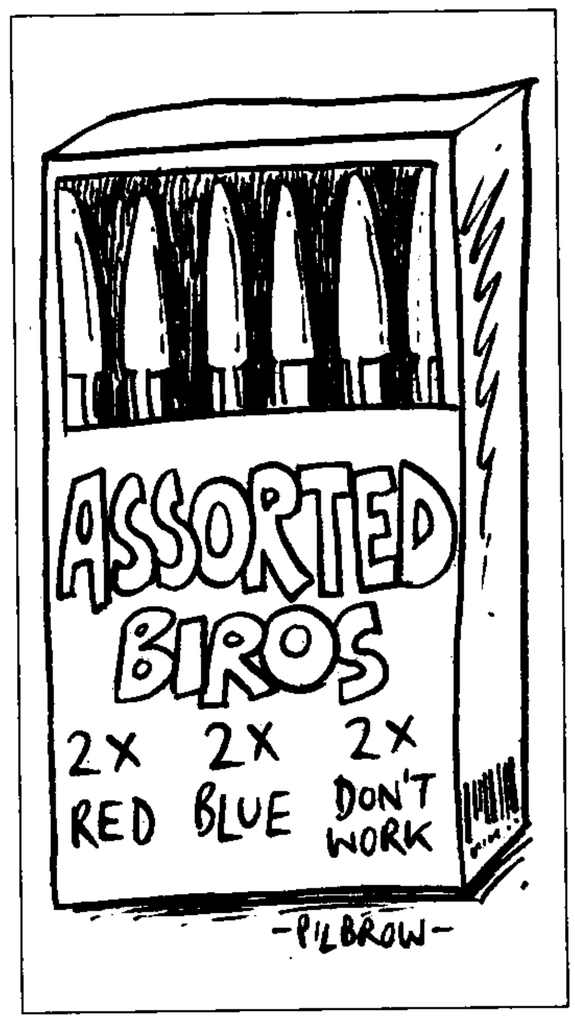
Honestly she's lucky I don't write about her in my column and make her look ridiculous.

ANYWAY, it'll have to be an entertainer. Charlie's really keen on the Silly Sausage Puppet Show but everyone in the class has already seen them.

The man who does the balloon animals is too cheap and even Simon is funnier than Wacky Willie. (Not much though, particularly not when he's reading out Monica Lewinsky jokes from the Internet).

Thank goodness I had a brilliant idea at the last minute. Claim a work crisis and get my mum to sort the whole thing out. It's only fair! What else are parents for but to put their children first?

© Polly Filler 1999



Roy of the Fuggers
FUGHAM F.C. ARE TOP OF THE LEAGUE.
GOOD FOR YOU BOSS- YOU INVESTED THE MONEY AND BOUGHT THE KEY PLAYERS.
YOUR TACTICS HAVE PAID OFF.
SO YOU THINK I'LL GET THE PASSPORT?
COME ON YOU FUGGERS!
THERE'S ONLY ONE COPY OF PUNCH SOLD.
Harrods

Letters to the Editor

Lord Denning Remembered

Sir—I once had the inestimable privilege of appearing before Tom Denning when he was in the Chancery and Probate division of the High Court. The case concerned the will of a wealthy pig farmer who had bequested one of his prize sows to his housekeeper, a Mrs. Elsworthy if I remember correctly, who had also died. My final submission, thanks to the complexity of the case, unavoidably lasted several weeks. I was still in mid-flow, when Lord Denning, with his typical old-world courtesy and charm, interrupted me in his gentle Hampshire burr and suggested that I should "shut up and sit down". What a wise old gentleman he was! We shall not see his like again.

SIR ARCHIBALD HUGEFEE Q.C.
The Inner Temple.

Sir—The people of Wittering St. Parva will be extremely grateful to the late Lord Denning for the preservation of the ancient footpath which for centuries has run from their village to the neighbouring village of Fearnley Whittingstall. When the path was threatened with closure in 1918, it was the already venerable Lord Denning who wrote to the Clerk of the Parish Council in his own inimitable handwriting, warning them that if they dared to allow the closure of the said footpath, he would personally take pleasure in sentencing them all to death. As he himself put it, citing the great 17th Century jurist Jefferies J., "be ye whomsoever ye may be, be ye so high, or be ye so low, I am above ye and ye shall be strung up, for it is ye only language that ye understand."

MRS CYNTHIA VOLECLAMP
The Old Kissing Gate
Boris St Johnson
Dorset

Sir—Tom Denning was the greatest judge in British history, as I have good reason to know. Whereas most judges sent me down for a couple of weeks at most, or even let me off altogether, Lord Denning could not be taken in by the likes of me. When I was found guilty of shoplifting a packet of Woodbines from a Neasden tobacconist, he quite rightly sentenced me to 35 years hard labour. "I can see you are a foreigner" he said in his funny Hampshire voice. "We don't want your type coming over here and stealing our cigarettes. You shall be taken from this place and hanged by the neck. Be ye never so alive, you shall soon be dead, praise be to God, for it is the only language you darkies understand."

REGINALD CARRUTHERS
Dartmoor Prison

Sir—I wish to protest at the suggestion in the above letter that Lord Denning was an institutional racist. This is a most vile and tasteless slur on a man who is no longer alive to defend himself. Lord Denning came from another era, when there were few black people in England, thank goodness.

E. MOSLEY POWELL
Foaming-on-the-Tiber
Warwicks

COURT CIRCULAR

BUENOS AIRES
His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will attempt to dance the tango with Senorita Tequila Legova. He will be photographed by the world's press looking suitably ridiculous.

He will later address a dinner of the Anglo-Argentinian Friendship Association, at which he will outrage his hosts by suggesting that Britain and Argentina should "try to live together in sort of harmony thingie."

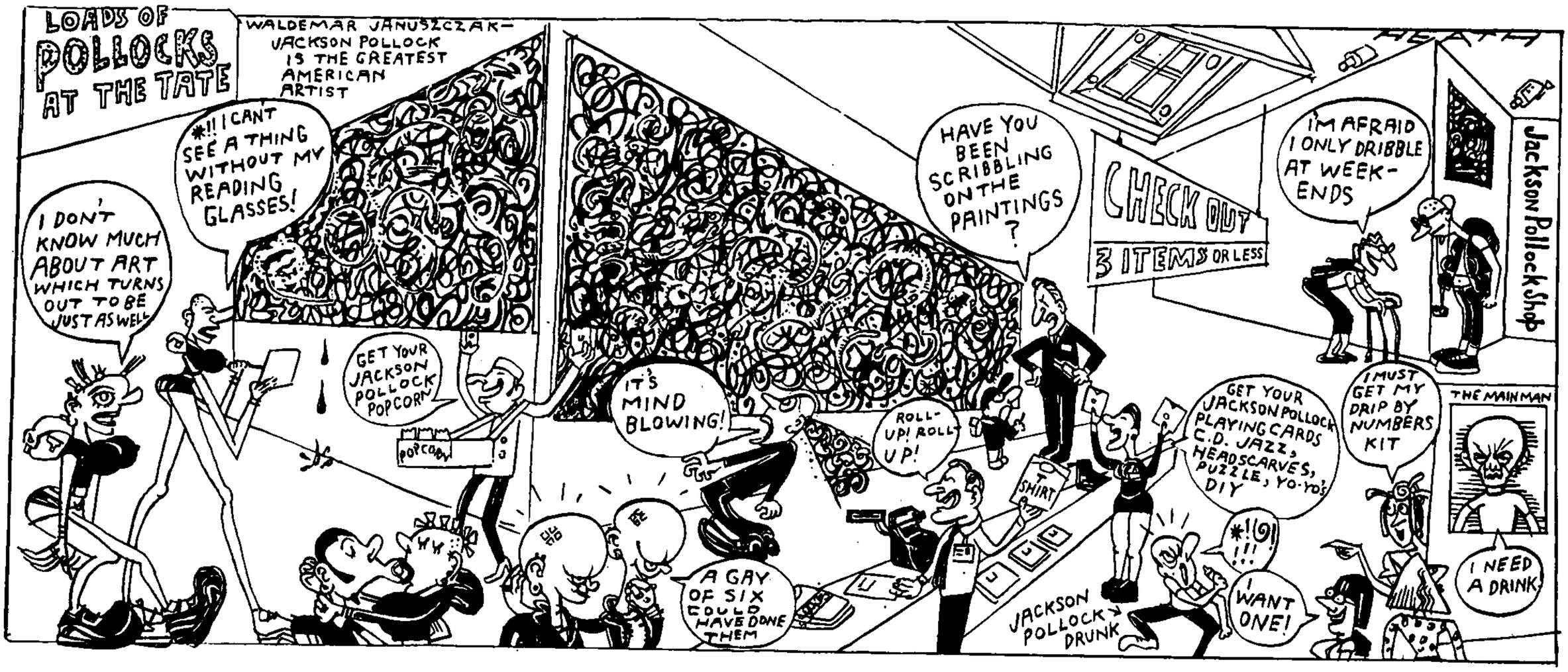
There will be a demonstration in his honour by Los Amigos de Malvinas who will burn Union Jacks and demand the execution of His Royal Highness.

PARIS
March 9: Her Royal Highness Camilla, the Mistress Royal, will attend a fashion show at the House of Tatte in aid of the Worldwide Fund for the Preservation of the Fox. Camilla will be snubbed by the designer, Stella McCartstudent, 17, and will wonder why.

LONDON
His Royal Highness Prince Philip will make a goodwill visit to "London's Theatreland." He will "go backstage" at the Raymond Revue Bar, Filth Street, where he will be photographed with members of the cast of "Just A Thong At Twilight", including Miss Titsi Slapper, Miss Jiggy Nicetime and Miss Rowana Pelling. The Duke will ask them "How much do you charge these days?"

WINDSOR
H.R.H The Prince Edward will receive a telephone call from Her Majesty the Queen asking him to strike off the Mistress Royal from the list of guests at his forthcoming nuptials to Ms Grifella Rhys-Jones, the public relations consultant.

HEATH'S PRIVATE VIEW


LOADS OF POLLOCKS AT THE TATE
WALDEMAR JANUSZCZAK— JACKSON POLLOCK IS THE GREATEST AMERICAN ARTIST
*!! I CANT SEE A THING WITHOUT MY READING GLASSES!
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ART WHICH TURNS OUT TO BE JUST AS WELL
GET YOUR JACKSON POLLOCK POPCORN
POPCORN
IT'S MIND BLOWING!
A GAY OF SIX COULD HAVE DONE THEM
HAVE YOU BEEN SCRIBBLING ON THE PAINTINGS?
ROLL-UP! ROLL-UP!
T SHIRT
JACKSON POLLOCK→ DRUNK
CHECK OUT 3 ITEMS OR LESS
I'M AFRAID I ONLY DRIBBLE AT WEEK-ENDS
Jackson Pollock Shop
GET YOUR JACKSON POLLOCK PLAYING CARDS C.D. JAZZ, HEADSCARVES, PUZZLE, YO-YO'S DIY
*!@! !!!
I WANT ONE!
I MUST GET MY DRIP BY NUMBERS KIT
THE MAINMAN
I NEED A DRINK

UGANDAN KILLERS Knacker Flies In

By Our Man In Africa **Norman Entebbit**

INSPECTOR "Knacker of the Yard" Knacker arrived in Uganda today, at the personal invitation of President Musevenup, to solve the crime that has stunned the world.

Said Inspector Knacker "It is early days yet, but I have a number of promising leads. We are looking for 2 million suspects answering to the name of Hutu."

"I am personally convinced that the perpetrators of this crime are a bunch of darkies, as you would expect."

"My men and I are extremely experienced in dealing with this type of person, but the ordinary tourist should not in any circumstances have a go."

RACIAL MURDER

"If they see any coloured persons answering to the above description, acting in a suspicious manner in the jungle, they should contact our incident unit at Amin Hilton, Panga-Panga, Macheteville."

"He never goes anywhere without his mobile"

OFSTED CLAIMS TEACHERS ARE 'INSTITUTIONALLY RAPIST'

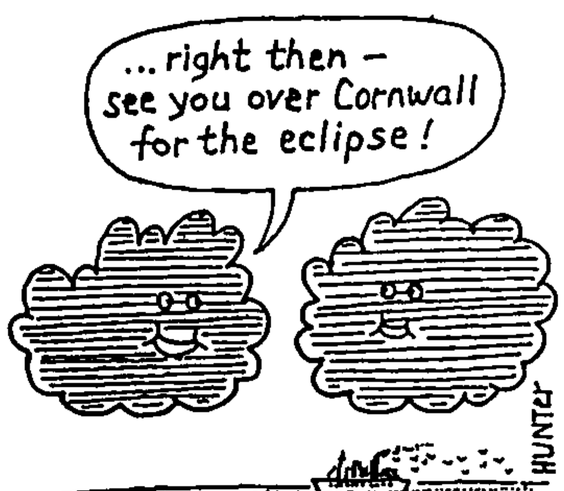
THE SCHOOL Inspectorate, OFSTED, has today published a report attacking teachers for being "unwittingly rapist", particularly in their dealings with vulnerable groups such as white sixth-form girls. The report cites as proof of this the example of one particular former teacher, a Mr Chris *(cont. page 94)*.

LATE NEWS

BANK FRAUD SHOCK!

IT WAS yesterday revealed by consumer groups that fraudsters are still able to gain access to individuals' bank accounts, thanks to what is known as the 'bank charges' loophole.

An economic expert told us: "These fraudsters have long been taking money out of people's bank accounts and syphoning it off. In one example, the first a particular person knew about the fraud was when they received an 'official letter' telling them they'd just been charged for the letter in question. A spokesman for the high street banks refused to issue a statement unless we agreed to be charged for the service." *(Reuters)*.



"You'll have to forgive Malcolm — he's always eating the wrong foods"

GLENDA SLAGG

MONICA LEWINSKY!?! Don'tcha-luvher?!! She's just a homespun, home-luvvin', all-American gal as sweet as cherry pie!?!

This week, at last, we could judge for ourselves what she is like — a small-town, small-time girl next door as sweet as cherry pie! ***(You've done this bit, Ed.)***

MONICA LEWINSKY!?! Aren'tcha-sickofher?!! Coming over here with her sleazy tales of a-smoochin' and a-moochin' in the White House!? Who do you think you are, Miss Superslapper, with your new hairstyle and fancy suits?! Princess Di?!?!! No amount of expensive makeover can hide the fact that you're nothing but a two-timin' trollop from Tallahassie!? Or wherever it is!?

Take a bit of advice from one slagg to another — go home and take that scumbag Morton with you! Get it?!!

GERMAINE GREER!?!?! Don'tcha-luvher?!? She might be old and bonkers with only her geese to keep her company, but I say Granny Greer knows a thing or two about what makes us gals tick!?!

OK, she's changed her mind about everything! It's a woman's prerogative! ***(Subs: check spelling)*****. It's what us gals do, Mister!** ***(See below)***

GERMAINE GREER!?!? Aren'tcha-sickofher?!? Turn on the telly or open any paper and whaddaya see? This barmy old battleaxe a-leerin' and a-greerin., tellin' us gals how we should live our lives?!?! Whaddaya know about it. you prune-faced old Aussie has-been (no offence, Germaine!)?!?!

Take a tip from a *real* feminist

— i.e. me. You've lost the plot, Germaine, as well as your looks (no offence, I mean that in a supportive sisterly way!?!) Geddit?!? Probably not at your age (no offence, you old witch!?!)

SEEN the new News at Ten?!!

It's at Six Thirty!!No wonder I missed it!

Here they are — Glenda's March Herrs!?!

Oskar LaFontaine!?!? They call you the most dangerous man in Europe?!? That's the way I like 'em?!?!

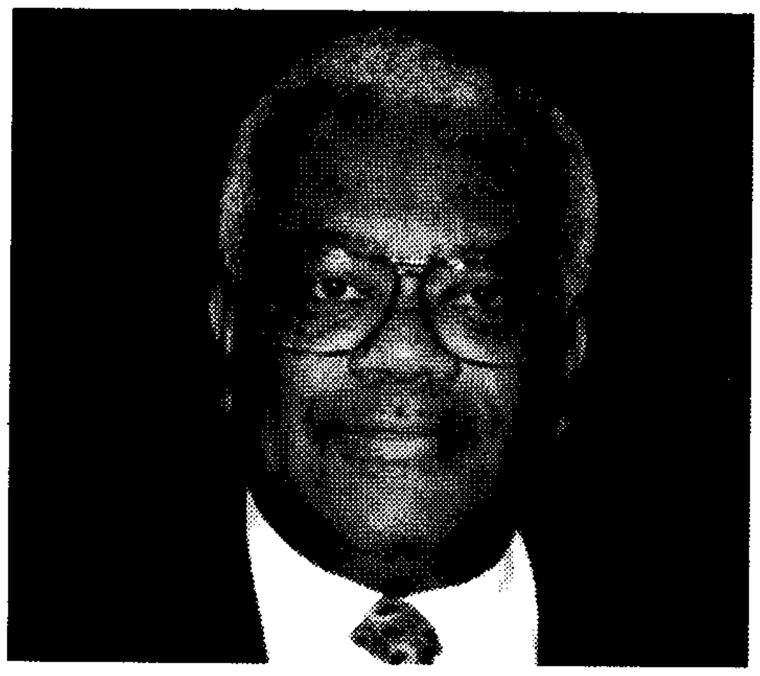
Gerhard Schroder!?!? So you like giving people the sack?!? I'm pretty good in the sack myself!?!

Lennox Lewis. OK, so you're not German — but I'd like to lay down on the canvas for you, Big Boy?!?

Auf Wiedersehn, Pets!

GLENDA VON SLAGG

DIARY



TREVOR McDONALD

I have just *been* through one of the most extraordinary and *emotionally* draining fortnights of my professional life. But then so has the *whole* country of *which* I am proud to call myself newsreader. *Having* presented News at Ten in its single-anchor *format* for seven (7) years, I have had *to lead* the nation in coming to terms *with* the seismic changes of a News at *Six*-Thirty. It has *been* a fortnight of immense trauma throughout *the* nation, echoing the trauma *undergone* at the death of Diana, Princess *of* Wales. That was news we brought you as *it* happened, with expert *comment* from the full range of those who knew the Princess both well, slightly and not at all. And that's a service we will continue *to* perform in our new time slot.

We calculated *that* six-thirty (6.30) is three and a half (3½) hours earlier than ten (10.00). This *presented* us with an extraordinary challenge. We realised we *would* have to change the much-loved title "News at Ten" to something much *more* appropriate to its time. "News at Seven-Fifteen" had a *note* of urgency to it, but *extensive* audience research told us it might mislead the viewer into *tuning in* three quarters of an hour too late. So after a tremendous amount of soul-*searching*, we hit on "News at Six-Thirty". And it's a title you, the audience, have taken *to your* hearts.

What I think surprised us all was how *much* real emotion was generated by the passing of News at Ten. Everywhere *people* honked their horns. Traffic stopped at red lights and *proceeded* forward on green. Ordinary people in the street came up asking us for *loose* change. Having been inundated by a telephone *call* from a viewer asking for Barry Norman, we were good enough to redirect her. And after I had entered his cab, a taxi-driver asked me *where* I wanted to go — and *then* took me straight there. And the response from *our* colleagues in the industry has *been* extraordinarily generous. At the end of our final *programme* on the Friday, our chief executive Stewart Purvis *read* a message from the chairman of ABC News in *New* York. It said, "On Monday your programme will *begin* at six-thirty, and *go on* for another half hour. This is indeed an historic *day* for world-wide news gatherers". And let me assure you of one thing. There weren't *many* dry eyes after that.

Truly memorable moment (1): In 1970 our ITN cameraman was first on the scene in Nairobi for the skyscraper *suicide* of a paranoid father-of-two who believed that his every *move* was being watched by film crews. Who would *have* predicted we would come up *with* a lead story to knock that day's Budget from the *headlines*. Our exclusive footage won three prestige *awards* and put ITN *firmly* on the map. Since then, we've covered many skyscraper *plunge* tragedies around the world — but none, I can *safely* say, quite so exciting as that!

News-gathering is a long and arduous *process* at the best of times. But to have three and a half fewer *hours* each day in which to gather it makes for an extraordinary challenge — in *short*, a challenge that is nothing short of extraordinary. Whether it's exclusive footage *of* fresh atrocities in Kosovo, up-to-the-minute flooding in Florida, a rail disaster *causing* tragedy and traffic chaos to millions or the very *latest* from the Paris Fashions, it's our aim to bring it to you in the most accessible and enjoyable *manner*.

At one of the parties last week to *celebrate* the News at Ten years, we talked endlessly about our former colleagues who *made* the programme what it was destined to become, namely News at Ten. Of course everyone remembers Reginald Bosanquet. He was a great character. *Alistair* Burnet will also be long remembered for the great character *he* was. Mike Nicholson was another great *character* who will be long remembered. And it's not likely many *people* will forget Sandy Gall, who was undoubtedly one of the great characters on News at Ten.

Great characters all, who brought *their* great characters to first-class presentation of news *and* current affairs. Many golden moments stand *out* in the memory. I will always remember the time Alistair Burnet showed me a spare tie he always kept in *his* desk, second drawer down "for emergency use only". It was an object *lesson* in the professional approach to live television. And Sandy Gall also taught me a valuable tip that has *lasted* me well down the years. "When presenting the *news*" he told me, "always take care to look straight *at* the camera. If you look in any other *direction*, the viewers may feel you are not *talking* directly to them, but to the wall, or the ceiling". A valuable *tip* from a great character, and one that has lasted me well *down* the years.

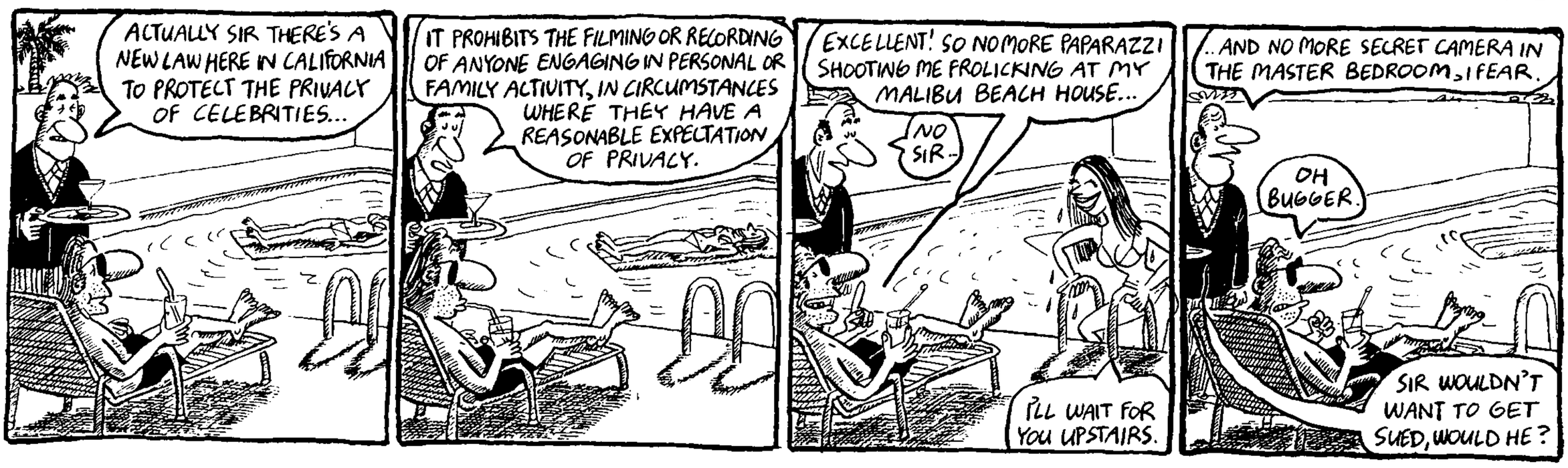
Truly memorable *moment* (2): Let no-one tell you we always got *it* right. On 3rd March *1981* News at Ten over-ran by 8 seconds. Result? Red *faces* all round.

By the end of the week we were *looking* back, too, at some of the most memorable events we reported in News at Ten's 32 *years*. We prided ourselves on bringing wars, famines and *natural* disasters, many of them unforgettable, right into the warmth of *your* living-room. This meant that the ordinary fellow in the street *could* feel that he, too, could see people like him dying — and all in a prime time, with a commercial *break* in the middle. The style we pioneered gave ITN *journalists* a stake in what we did and gave our *reports* a human dimension. A classic example of that was seen when ITN's *Michael* Nicholson sneezed during a live report from Afghanistan. "Bless you, Michael!" I interjected, *in* a totally unscripted aside. Michael then brought out a *clean* white handkerchief and proceeded to wipe *his* nose. By presenting viewers with the human *dimension* we had brought them immeasurably closer to the very real *conflict* in that war-torn *zone*.

And finally — at 10.30 on that extraordinary *first* evening of Monday 3 July 1967, Alistair Burnet *ended* the very first News at Ten with those historic words, "Tune in tomorrow at *the* same time for some more news". And that's been *our* motto ever since. Thank *you* and *Good* night.

Celeb

LIGGER


ACTUALLY SIR THERE'S A NEW LAW HERE IN CALIFORNIA TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF CELEBRITIES...
IT PROHIBITS THE FILMING OR RECORDING OF ANYONE ENGAGING IN PERSONAL OR FAMILY ACTIVITY, IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THEY HAVE A REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY.
EXCELLENT! SO NO MORE PAPARAZZI SHOOTING ME FROLICKING AT MY MALIBU BEACH HOUSE...
NO SIR..
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU UPSTAIRS.
..AND NO MORE SECRET CAMERA IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, I FEAR.
OH BUGGER.
SIR WOULDN'T WANT TO GET SUED, WOULD HE?

Literary Review

Pinter of Discontent

Various Voices: Prose, Poetry, Politics 1948-1998

Harold Pinter

(Faber £16.99)

IT'S none of my business, of course, but we're getting just a little bit *grand* these days. Never mind the marrying quality and the gracious living; never mind the rare yet seigneurial interviews with admiring journalists, the "Where's my car?" asides at public appearances or even the occasional trips down from the mountain to mix it in the *Guardian* letters page — no, I think you have to be a little bit grand to put your name to an undertaking like the present, miscellaneous volume.

Not, heaven help us, that the slightest utterance of our Greatest Living Playwright, the merest glimmering from behind that furrowed brow (sample, a poem, titled, um, "Poem", which consists of the following eleven words: "I saw Len Hutton in his prime/Another time/Another time") isn't fit to be set in stone. But do we really need, in addition to a letter written to the director of *The Birthday Party* prior to its first rehearsal, a note by the editor of the learned journal in which it first appeared thanking our man for allowing it to see the light and commending "a very fine piece of expository prose"? Or a press report about the difficulties encountered by a group of Kurds attempting to stage *Mountain Language* in Haringey?

Shuffling together a great deal of ancillary Pinter material from the past half-century — sobering to think that the old boy is pushing 70 and that *The Birthday Party* has just celebrated its 40th anniversary — *Various Voices* divides up into four sections: Prose (interviews, some quasi-autobiography); Prose Fiction, Poetry and the concluding Politics.

As you might imagine, what follows is the raggiest of rag bags: interlocutory sessions of the "Tell me Mr Pinter, how is it your're so wonderful?" kind, alternating with fervent memories of the cricket-field — the great Pinter obsession — and its adornments, or piss-ups with Samuel Beckett; queer little fragments of verse yielding up to the sight of Harold getting *really fucking angry* with his other Uncle Sam, and the latter's depredations on El Salvador and half a dozen other places.

The "prose fiction" consists of a few intent, man-in-a-room ruminations — out-takes from the plays, one imagines; the poems are of the kind best described as "occasional". All touch on a variety of moods and feelings, yet the sensibility that corrals them together is completely unmissable.

Actually *Various Voices* is a misnomer. Leaving aside the obituary notices and the paeans to Hutton and Washbrook, and it's the same voice, saying, moreover, the same thing. Politics for Pinter, with certain tangential digressions in pursuit of Thatcher or Murdoch, means the absolute, undeniable and unswerving barbarity of post-war US foreign policy.

East Timor. Nicaragua. Cuba. Chile. All fine, righteous stuff — even if events such as the Sandinistas' failure to win the second round of Nicaraguan elections are given less space than their triumph in the first — and no one could read Pinter on the horrors of the Latin American dictators without wanting to cheer him on. What occasionally undermines this championing of the good brave causes is the odd sense of *personal* affront. The famous poem about the Gulf War (the one that goes "We blew the shit right back up their own ass/And out of their fucking ears...") is brought out once more to greet the shrieks of its no doubt enraptured audience, vats of scorn get poured on the windy editors who declined to print it back in 1991, without Pinter stopping to consider whether it might not actually have been a very good poem in the first place.

The same sense of huge personal indignation, so huge as to obscure other considerations, takes in some remarks — made in an interview with a Spanish academic — about the June 20 group's anti-Thatcherite intellectuals' coffee mornings, ridiculed to death by the media back in the late 1980s. But it's possible to sympathise, faintly, with Pinter's complaints about the "derision" this enterprise attracted while rather wanting to point out that, for all his and Lady Antonia's (and Salman and Ian and all the others') good intentions, the reports of a dozen or so highly-paid literary folk drinking tea in Campden Hill Square while abusing Mrs T and her minions were a source of wild amusement to socialist and Conservative alike.

Never mind, getting *bloody cross* is what Harold does best. *Bastard* Mrs Thatcher. And while we're on the subject, where *is* my bloody driver? Our man turned up at the Royal Society of Literature the other week, by the way, to get his C. Lit award, and read from *Betrayal* and *The Caretaker*. Bloody phenomenal he was. In fact to put the experience into the style of *Various Voices'* poetic interludes:

I saw old Pinter in his prime
Another time, another time
Bloody phenomenal.
I'm telling you.
Yes.
Fuck *those Yanks.*

NEW OLD SAYINGS

First come, no one to talk to

BOOKS & BOOKMEN

■ REVIEWING the absurd *Monica's Story* for the *Sindie*, David Usborne notes that Andrew Morton "is not, by his own admission, much of a fan of journalism or journalists", pages of the book being "laden with scorn for the profession — even though it was once his own".

With Michael O'Mara's cash cow now styling himself pseudishly as "writer and thinker", he is unlikely to relish being reminded that he was once a hack — and not a particularly good one. Indeed it is tempting to think that his "scorn" for his old trade is a belated payback for the low esteem in which his peers held him when he was the notoriously fawning (and none too prescient) royal correspondent of the *Daily Star*.

In February 1988 (see *Eye* 683), a year before his gushing *Duchess: An Intimate Portrait of Sarah, Duchess of York* hit the shops, he wrote an article announcing confidently that la Freebiana was not pregnant — a day before Buckingham Palace told an indifferent nation that, er, she was heavy with child.

So much for intimacy. Fortunately the story was spiked, but the incident aroused the concern of his then editor, Brian "Mussolini" Hitchen. "Mussolini", not greatly enamoured of his palace hack, thought Morton should spend more time being a pisspoor hack and less time writing pisspoor royal books, such as his early yawn-a-minute effort *The Royal Yacht Britannia: Life on Board the Floating Palace*. But Morton carried on with both until *Diana: Her True Story* meant he could afford to devote his full attention to "writing and thinking".

■ THE publishing rumour mill is not being kind about Vikram Seth's new novel. The current wisdom is as follows:

Vikram Seth's first "novel", the all-verse *The Golden Gate*, was delightful. His second, *A Suitable Boy*, had, amid the longueurs, a great deal of charm. Now, with his third, *An Equal Music*, the process is complete. Like the Hollywood moguls of old, Phoenix, publisher of *An Equal Music*, has isolated the best and most characteristic thing about Seth... and obliterated it.

This explanation for Seth's apparent decline is, of course, an assumption: no minute exists of board meetings at which the topic was "How can we dull this guy up?" But it is supported by such declarations as the letter to "Dear Friends" that begins the bound galleys of the American edition.

William M. Shinker, president and publisher of Broadway Books (a nation-state of the Bantam Doubleday Dell commonwealth), says he is "thrilled" with "this truly dazzling new work of fiction", this "gorgeous and highly **accessible** novel". Uh oh.

Favourite piece of dialogue? "You think I'm like some — some porcelain frog that you can pick up and smash down when you lose interest or decide it's inconvenient?" Second favourite: "We make love not with tenderness but with ecstasy born of starvation."

Seth has somehow opted for bland bestseller-ese. Who is to blame?

'Bookworm'

footnotes

THE MAIL EUNUCH

KATHY WOODHEAD

WOODHEAD'S FOES CIRCLING OVERHEAD was the headline over an angry first editorial in the *Daily Mail* of Monday 6 March. "Leaders of some teaching unions," the leader fulminated, "have been quick to try to exploit the latest allegations about the past affair between Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, and a girl who was once a sixth form pupil of his. Like circling vultures, they sense that his position could be fatally undermined."

Modestly the *Mail* did not mention the biggest of the vultures circling over the wretched chief inspector — the *Mail on Sunday*, whose editor in chief is Paul Dacre, editor of the *Daily Mail*.

PAUL DACRE

The previous day the *Mail on Sunday* front page and three pages inside were given over to the sensational revelation from Woodhead's former wife Cathy that Woodhead had not only had an affair with Amanda Johnston when she was his pupil, but, as the *Eye* has been suggesting for more than two years, had subsequently lied about it.

He and Amanda had both claimed their affair started after she left school. But Cathy Woodhead's devastating and detailed testimony put that to flight. In fact the affair had started, at the latest, in the autumn of 1975, at the beginning of Amanda's last year at Gordano School, Bristol. It was going strong at the week's "creative writing course" in Devon in October 1975 which has been twice reported in the *Eye*, and had reached such a climax six months later that the head of English and his pupil were sleeping together in the Woodhead family home.

The *Daily Mail* had full knowledge of this impending scoop and, two weeks before it broke, had hired a freelance journalist to flush out the truth. The freelance spent many days in the Bristol area talking to former teachers at Gordano.

He talked to Terry French, who revealed that he had lent Woodhead the keys to his house, which was conveniently close to the school and from which the lovers were seen emerging sheepishly as they made their way back to school. At least four other former Gordano teachers — Lorna Scott, Andy Steed, Francis Hallam and Tony Sutton (who was a "house head" and reported many complaints from other pupils about the affair) — not to mention the headmistress of the time, Esther Cryer, all confirmed that the affair was common knowledge.

The freelance's story would have made an excellent and exclusive *Daily Mail* follow-up to the *Mail on Sunday* scoop. But it was spiked. Faced with a choice between a first-rate story broken by his own paper and his deep admiration for Chris Woodhead, *Mail* editor Paul Dacre plumped for good solid old-fashioned Middle England prejudice.

He had stood by Chris Woodhead loyally in the past. Last year when a Channel Four *Despatches* programme researched by Paul Lashmar trashed some Ofsted statistics, the *Mail* responded with a furious attack on the media guttersnipes who dared to attack the great champion of standards in schools. There was, however, as Dacre's leader hinted, a further reason the *Mail* should stand up for a little gentle lying on the side. "Both Tony Blair and education secretary David Blunkett have recognised the value of his (Woodhead's) contribution," it drooled.

That may not quite be true. When Woodhead was reappointed chief inspector last summer, inspired government leaks suggested that Blunkett wanted someone else. But the main point is true enough. The prime minister has adored Woodhead ever since, before the election, he was bluffed by David Frost into promising on air that the chief inspector would not be sacked. The revelations from Cathy Woodhead must have caused even Tony Blair to wonder if he might have been mistaken. But before long the message from 10 Downing Street and the spin doctors was loud and clear: SPARE THAT WOODHEAD. The message may prove as disastrous as similar ones in the past (over Geoffrey Robinson, for instance).

But there is another matter which may prolong the Woodhead saga further than it deserves. During the crisis after the *News of the World*'s discovery in 1995 of the affair with Amanda, she apparently signed a sworn affidavit to the effect that her affair with her teacher did not start until "long after" she had left school. Oh dear.

Biwater of Babylon 2

AS THE US/British bombing of Iraq continues, fears grow for the resin and nitrogen plant exported there 10 years ago by the British multinational Biwater.

Finance for the plant came from the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, whose branch in Atlanta, Georgia, provided a series of enormous loans to western companies which supplied defence equipment to Iraq in the late 1980s. The resin plant, which Biwater says had no conceivable military function, was set up in Al Taji, an area north of Baghdad which has been heavily bombed by British and US planes. In a recent report on the bombing, US General Henry Shelton disclosed: "At the Taji missile repair facility all five targeted buildings were hit and damaged, three of them severely."

A former Biwater subsidiary was the main supplier of the plant, but there were at least 50 other companies which combined to build and supply it. The firms and their products were listed at the US senate banking committee hearings in October 1992. They included: "32 drums resin, demineralised water plant and resin for the plant" from Permutit, Doncaster, a company which was bought by Thames Water during water privatisation in 1989, and sold on to US Filters in 1995.

"Water chilling units" from York International, of Trafford Park, Manchester. York's parent company in Pennsylvania borrowed $3,250,000 from BNL for exporting 18 loose chillers and control panels to a client called "The General Company for Iraqi fairs".

Other suppliers included: Air Products, Walton-on-Thames (a molecular sieve); Spirax-Sarco, Cheltenham (pumps and a steam recovery vessel); Frazer North West, Manchester (couplings and lubricants); Mono Pumps, Manchester; Bryan Donkin Co Ltd, Chesterfield (pressure regulating module); Fairport Engineering, Chorley (structural steelwork); Heap and Partners, Hoylake (valves); Norton Chemical Process, Stoke (column internals); Davenport Engineering, Bradford (cooling towers).

What a tragedy that so much of the best of British and US engineering should be under threat from British and US bombs.

HARD TO BEATTY?

LORD HOGG

LORD WEIR

BIG PFI contract battles loom between two of "new" Labour's favourite companies.

Balfour Beatty and Jarvis are in consortia bidding for London Underground and for two privatised school projects in Haringey, London, and Stoke-on-Trent. Both companies seem to have all the necessary qualifications for victory.

PEER ON THE PAYROLL Balfour Beatty has its parent company chairman, Viscount Weir (Tory) and Jarvis has Lord Hogg (Labour).

FRIENDLY NEW LABOUR LOBBYIST Jarvis has Citigate and Ian Hepplewhite, former Labour party press officer. Citigate sponsors the Labour party and booked a table at the last Labour conference gala dinner. Balfour Beatty has GJW Government Relations, which employs Karl Milner, who once worked in Gordon Brown's office, and Roger Sharp, once of Labour's business unit. GJW sponsors the Labour party and booked a table for the last Labour conference gala dinner.

DODGY SAFETY RECORD Balfour Beatty has just been fined £1.2m for its part in the cost-cutting Heathrow tunnel collapse, while Jarvis is being prosecuted for a dreadful railway rerouting cock-up between Coventry and Hertford (*Eye* 964).

Honours look even but if it comes to a nasty fight, Balfour Beatty might just win on two other important criteria: secondments and foreign trips. Their Martin Print has been on secondment to the department of trade and industry's "innovation unit" since May last year. Their Colin Ostler has spent a tremendous amount of time going round the world with Nick Raynesford, the minister for London and construction. In October 1997 the two were off on a trade mission to Jordan; in March 1998 Raynesford was off again — this time to the Philippines with Balfour Beatty's Alastair Kennedy. In September the Minister and the faithful Mr Ostler went to Egypt.

PS Balfour Beatty is also involved in the bid to build the Ilisu dam in Turkey, which will flood thousands of acres now occupied and controlled by dissident Kurds. The dam recently attracted the attention of the UK Defence Forum, for whom Nicholas Marsh wrote a recent paper revealing that "an underlying motive of the project is to deny the Kurdish guerillas the environment in which they operate".

PPS The UK Defence Forum is a "sponsor" of the Labour party and has contributed "over £5,000" to party funds.

PETER TAYLOR

The Peter Principle

MUCH applause has greeted Peter Taylor's BBC television series *Loyalists*. The revelation by a loyalist leader that he carried out assassinations in collusion with the British military and intelligence authorities has been greeted with shock and horror.

This is not, however, the first time such allegations have been made. Long ago, at the end of the 1980s, Colin Wallace, a former army information officer with a special assignment to carry out "black propaganda", and former military intelligence officer Fred Holroyd revealed that the British authorities had worked closely with Protestant paramilitary assassins.

They alleged that, among other atrocities, the slaughter of the Miami showband pop group and the murder of Catholic policeman Joe Campbell had been assisted by the police, the army and/or intelligence. Wallace and Holroyd were widely refuted and mocked, especially in the media. In September 1987 the *Independent* published a full page denouncing both men as fantasists and concluding that there was absolutely no evidence of collusion between the army and the assassins. One of the authors was John Ware, a BBC reporter.

In 1991 Chatsworth, a television production company, approached the BBC with a plan for a two-hour drama documentary based on the story of Colin Wallace. The idea was taken up enthusiastically by the BBC's Screen One department, headed by Richard Brook, who commissioned the documentary. A script was written by the Irish journalist Tom McGurk, paid for and accepted. It included the suggestion that loyalist assassinations and bombings had been carried out with the help of the British authorities.

Throughout 1992 the plans for the programme went ahead. In the spring of 1993, however, the BBC's managing director Will Wyatt wrote to Malcolm Heyworth of Chatsworth with the news that he was scrapping the whole idea. His decision, he revealed, had been made after consulting "journalists I trust" on the BBC. The problem, Wyatt indicated, was Wallace's "veracity".

Heyworth protested, and insisted on a meeting with Wyatt. He solicited letters from three peers, one from each political party, and from Merlyn Rees, former secretary of state for Northern Ireland, all of whom argued the case for Wallace's credibility and for the programme to go ahead.

Wyatt was unmoved. The entire programme was scrapped. In December 1993 the *Observer* reported the scrapping of the programme and named the two journalists who had advised Wyatt against it — John Ware and Peter Taylor.

Not long afterwards John Ware published and broadcast the strange story of Brian Nelson, the undercover British intelligence officer who infiltrated the UDA and arranged sectarian murders with the help of information from British military intelligence. Now Peter Taylor reveals precisely the sort of collusion with assassinations which Wallace alleged and which Taylor helped to suppress.

PS In 1996 Colin Wallace's conviction for killing his close friend Jonathan Lewis was quashed. He always claimed he was entirely innocent of the killing and that his conviction was the result of a frame-up by the authorities to pay him back for exposing the worst excesses of MI5 in Northern Ireland. He had spent six years in prison — but has still not had a penny compensation.

High Principals

THISTLEBLOWING

DR JOHN O'DOWD

CAN you detect something contradictory in the stories of two former members of staff at Glasgow Caledonian University: Dr John O'Dowd, once a science lecturer; and Professor Stan Mason, once the principal?

Five years ago Dr O'Dowd became rather worried that large numbers of students were failing their radiography exams and then, against the rules, were being allowed to take them again and again. He made some mildly critical comments at the university senate. He was then rather surprised to be approached by a colleague who asked if his mortgage was paid and told him: "We sort people like you out."

Sidelined, boycotted and abused, Dr O'Dowd became gravely ill and had to give up his job. In June 1997 he wrote to the chief executive of the Scottish higher education funding council (SHEFC) and to his MP Dr John Reid setting out his complaints against the university. The result was a long inquiry and report by Prof John Darby, former assistant principal of Napier University.

The report, which was completed last May but not published until December, concluded: "Approximately half the allegations made by Dr O'Dowd have been upheld, including some instances of serious lapses from good academic practice, a particular case of management bullying of staff and examples of unprofessional conduct." Twenty proposals were made to reform the university structure.

The report also said that "matters raised in this report would not have come to the attention of the [university] court but for the 'whistle-blowing' that initiated the investigation". In other words, if Dr O'Dowd had shut up like his colleagues, there would have been no inquiry, no exposure of rotten academic standards or of bullying, and no proposal for reform.

At the same time as the Darby report was being prepared, another set of investigators were poring over the records of Glasgow Caledonian University. In February 1997 anonymous allegations about the management of the university were made to the national audit office (NAO) and the Scottish higher education funding council. After a brief inquiry the council found "serious misconduct within the institution" and in September 1997 Prof Mason was sacked for gross misconduct.

The full SHEFC/NAO report was published last April. It uncovered practices with which *Eye* readers are familiar — appointments of close family and friends to jobs in the university and its associated companies, freebies masquerading as academic trips abroad and management predilection for expensive cars at taxpayers' expense.

After these two highly abrasive reports about Mason's regime at Glasgow Caledonian, you might think he is down and out, or at least that the original whistleblower would be back in his job, basking in the admiration of his colleagues.

But no. After two years' trying to find work as a lecturer, Dr O'Dowd has just managed to land an administrative post in another city. Backed by expensive lawyers, Prof Mason took his case to an industrial tribunal, which held that he had been unfairly dismissed because the proper procedures were not followed. By a 2-1 majority the tribunal awarded him £150,000 and ordered his reinstatement. (He won't get his job back, but he will get much more money.)

PROF STAN MASON

The case for blowing the whistle in further education in Scotland is now clear. The whistleblower gets the boot — and the fouler gets loads of taxpayers' money.

CASH LANDING

IF YOU ring KLM (or most other airlines) and ask to book a ticket for any trip after 1 April, you will be given the price of the ticket plus the price of the tax: £19.10.

Just a moment: £19.10? The airport tax is only £10. What is the extra £9.10? The answer the *Eye* got from KLM was "passenger service tax". Other airlines will give you a slightly different story, such as "it's a new tax imposed by the airports".

In fact the extra charge is plain extortion. It is not a tax at all. No new tax has been imposed. Mike Lanyon, chairman of the Airports Operators Association, tells the *Eye*: "No British airport has introduced any new charge. The airlines are just shoving up charges by stealth. The new charge is entirely wrong and probably illegal. We are taking the matter to the Office of Fair Trading."

The idea for the scam came to the airlines in March last year. Two Scandinavian airlines got permission from the European commission to restructure their tickets to charge extra in case the airports raised their charges to compensate for the abolition of duty free shops. So bucked were the airlines by this permission that they promptly slapped on the "passenger service charge" even before duty free was abolished and certainly before any airport had increased its charges.

Tickets were changed to include a little box in a bottom corner in which the new charge is added without any explanation. Despite a howl of protest from the operators' association and innumerable complaints from passengers the airlines blandly continue with the rip-off.

A.E.E.U-TURN

STEPHEN TORRANS, the personnel director of the big Belfast engineering firm F.G. Wilson who is presiding over hefty redundancies, insists that the AEEU, the union which has signed up at least a third of the workforce, should have no negotiating rights and cannot even accompany workers during "consultations" about their sacking.

Can this possibly be the same Stephen Torrans, former personnel director of the Belfast subsidiary of the French engineering combine Montupet, who gave a warm interview to the union journal *North and South* in the winter edition 1992-93? Yes, it's the same chap.

In that interview, Mr Torrans waxed eloquent about the single union deal signed by the company with, er, the AEEU. "The union demonstrated exactly the qualities we were looking for," he drooled. "The right approach and forward thinking. They seemed to speak our language in terms of securing a future for the company, in partnership."

Whoops! In 1997 Mr Torrans left Montupet, joined Wilsons and developed a rather different approach to partnership.

You can write to Paul Foot at Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG, or leave a message for him on 0171 287 3183

In the City

IT IS not just those wrongly jailed for murder, terrorism or robbery who may be seen as victims of injustice fit for investigation by the new criminal cases review board (CCRB). Fraudsters too can be victims, it seems, even if they are closed down by City regulators and creditors lose out big time.

Former City merchant banker Wallace Duncan Smith, jailed for six years in 1994 for what was described as "one of the most serious cases of fraudulent trading", is understood to have asked the new review body to take up his case. Those with knowledge of the case believe it is possible Smith's conviction may even be sent back to the court of appeal to reconsider — despite the Wallace Smith Trust going down for almost £100m.

Smith claimed to be a wealthy Canadian with a family fortune. He was a railway worker's son whose family trust income flowed from loans made by gullible banks. Thanks to the banks, Smith lived high and helped fund the anti-Eurofederalism Bruges Group beloved by the Thatcherites.

Wallace Smith Trust engaged in bogus deals with borrowed money which resulted in the banks losing almost £100m when it was closed down by the Bank of England in 1991. Smith was released after serving three years. At the heart of the new appeal is said to be the 1996 Preddy ruling by the law lords. This blew a loophole wide enough for an open prison full of fraudsmen to escape by declaring that electronically transferred bank credits were not covered by the theft act. Credits in a borrower's account were not the lender's "property", declared the legal brains trust — contrary to what prosecutors and judges had believed since 1968. So charges of obtaining property by deception under section 15 of the act relating to the use of such credits placed in a conman's account by a bank or building society, were flawed.

The Preddy ruling caused uproar in legal circles because it threatened a tidal wave of appeals by convicted mortgage fraudsters and other conmen who had been jailed under the 1968 act. So much so that the appeal court moved quickly to make it clear that fresh appeals out of time relying on Preddy would not be welcomed.

Wallace Duncan Smith lost his appeal against his conviction in 1995 only months before the Preddy ruling. The issue of section 15 was relevant to his appeal as he had been convicted on two counts of obtaining property by deception. These related to money credited to Smith's New York bank account on the basis of securities supposedly held in Canada.

The court of appeal dismissed Smith's claims that no property had been obtained in Britain because the electronic transfer took place between New York banks. But it seems he may now have a second chance. And justice for all!

HOME secretary Jack Straw's decision to grant Ali Fayed a British passport is less surprising than his view that the department of trade (DTI) report proving that both he and his brother Mohamed Fayed lied to the previous government in order to take over Harrods is no longer relevant.

The last time the findings of a DTI investigation were rejected as ancient history was the Pergamon verdict that Robert Maxwell was unfit to be the director of a public company. That mistake — because Maxwell never changed, he only became worse — was a product of City expediency and political fear. It cost the Maxwell pensioners £400m and his creditors even more.

Just like Cap'n Bob, the phoney pharaoh who lied to the DTI, its inspectors, City regulators and his own bankers and lawyers about his background and finances is a bigger monster now than 10 years ago. The question is whether Straw has the bottle to take him on if the appeal court rules that Fayed's bribee, Neil Hamilton, cannot sue his briber. Should the libel ruling go to the law lords, Straw could use that or continuing investigations into the close relationships between Fayed and Scotland Yard detectives as a reason to delay the whole passport issue until this time next year. Phew — what a relief!

Ali always operated in his elder brother's shadow and has played no part in the subsequent criminal activities of his brother. Ironically Ali now spends most of his time in the United States — it seems to distance himself from his brother's increasingly deranged paranoid ravings — and so the passport issue to him is less important.

But if Ali Fayed is of "good character" how can brother MoMo not be? The Fayeds' original legal advice was to use Ali as a stalking horse on the basis that if he was granted citizenship the home office would have great problems rejecting the pharaoh.

Should Straw decide — hiding behind politico-legal weasel words about government impotence in the face of no firm evidence, impartially, etc — to surrender to Fayed's bullying, he will be redefining "good character". In future no one admitting to bribery, illegal entry and theft or accused of sexual harassment, racial discrimination, phone tapping, breaching bank secrecy or police corruption should be denied the reward of British citizenship.

IT IS perhaps not entirely coincidental that Adrian Ezra — a leading member of the phoney "Flaming Ferraris", that PR cock-tale so eagerly downed by City hacks who should know better — has chosen Keith Oliver of Peters & Peters to sue Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) after his sacking over the improper Swedish share deals of James Archer, son of the great storyteller.

Ezra joins a long list of notably innocent City suits who have relied on Oliver — pillars of probity such as Kevin Maxwell, Guinness defendant Anthony Parnes and Facia founder Stephen Hinchliffe.

Oliver demonstrates unqualified belief in the innocence of his clients — even those who have been denounced as liars by judges, like Maxwell, or jailed, like Parnes. So without a legal aid certificate in sight, Oliver was by Maxwell's side after he was acquitted of contempt of court for refusing to answer questions from the tortoise-paced Department of Timidity & Inaction inspectors. But then Peters & Peters had their share of £10m-plus of taxpayers' money courtesy of previous Maxwell trials. Strangely the *Guardian* reported that Maxwell, having borrowed £15,000, was "advised only by his solicitor David Corker" (also from Peters & Peters) beside a photograph of Kevin and Keith!

Ezra is suing for his bonus which he claims to be $1.5m (£930,000). If true, that figure suggests — surprise, surprise — that the hype about the five-man team sharing £5m was exactly that. Ezra was number two to the also sacked David Crisanti. If they shared

"A Flaming Skoda, please"

£2.5m, probably a top estimate, it seems difficult to see how Archer, the most junior Fiesta, and his two colleagues would have shared as much again.

But then the whole story — including the name — was a PR invention... so why expect the numbers to be true? It will be interesting to see how the severely embarrassed CSFB responds to the Ezra writ. Especially after it has been probably heavily fined by Swedish and British regulators. It will equally be worth waiting to see if Ezra persists with his action should he be fined/censured/banned by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) for failing to prevent Archer jnr's enthusiasm or react appropriately to his share-rigging.

Meanwhile Archer has proved once again that hype, once in print, becomes fact no matter how ridiculous. Despite exposure of the "Flaming Ferraris" as little more than a phoney photo, financial hacks continue to write about Archer and his pals as if their claims to be the most successful dealers in the world were real, using phrases like "City legend". Only in their own fevered lunchtimes.

LEADING mutual insurer Standard Life has been boasting in recent advertisements about its investment expertise. "Profit from our knowledge", declared the sales pitch for its newly-formed fund management arm, Standard Life Investments.

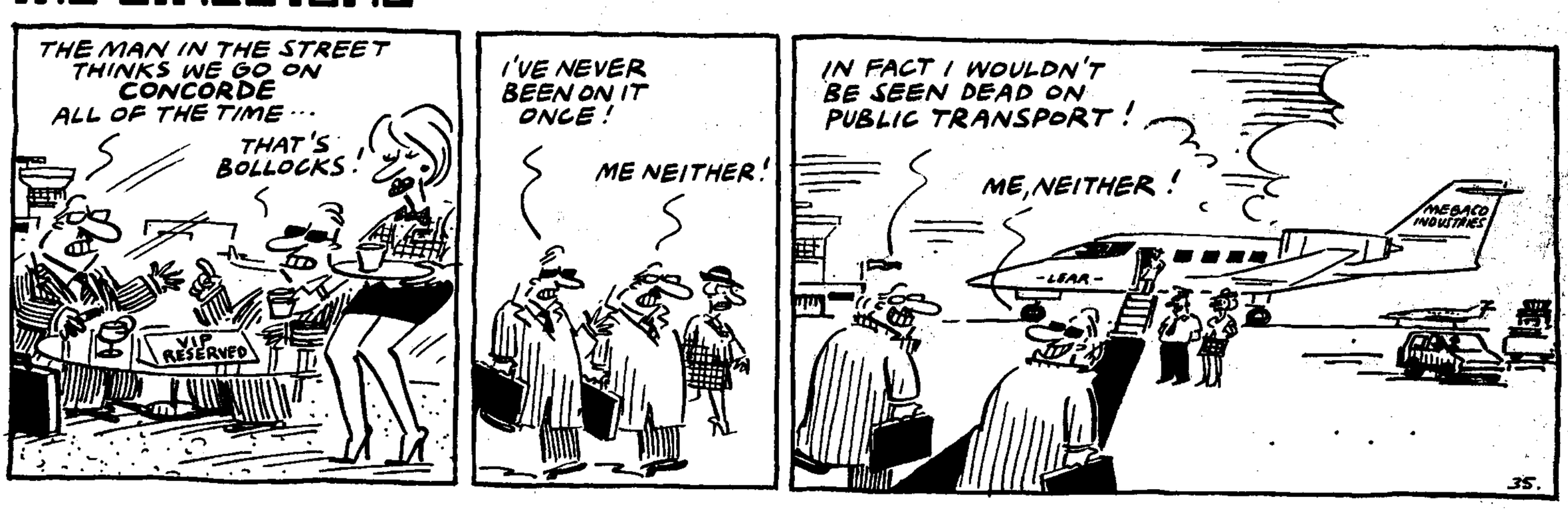
The ads made no reference to Standard Life's failure to benefit from knowledge about its largest single investment — 33 percent of Edinburgh neighbour Bank of Scotland. Standard Life received 222p a share for just under a 30 percent stake in July 1996. The shares subsequently soared to 950p last year.

As the Standard Life Investments ad declares of its investment wizards: "It's their job to know everything there is to know about any company we invest in." Pity they weren't around three years ago. Or maybe they were.

"YOU ARE not required to give money to solicitors", declares a public announcement at Los Angeles airport. A motto which perhaps should be adopted by the legal aid board in Britain!

'Slicker'

THE DIRECTORS — DREDGE/RIGG


THE MAN IN THE STREET THINKS WE GO ON CONCORDE ALL OF THE TIME ...
THAT'S BOLLOCKS!
VIP RESERVED
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON IT ONCE!
ME NEITHER!
IN FACT I WOULDN'T BE SEEN DEAD ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT!
ME, NEITHER!
-LEAR-
MEGACO INDUSTRIES
35.

www.fireandwater.com Available at OLLAKARTA

specialEYEs

clubs

The
Blue Angel Club
welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.
Open for Lunch until early Morning, Monday to Friday
Membership not required.
17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 0171 636 2178

PREMIER ADVENTURES

We offer a full range of corporate entertainment packages from supplying companions and client entertainment, or just beautiful staff for your parties, right through to ..... lap-dancing in your limo, and entire event organisation (stag hen etc.) and or all combinations of the above.

Membership available. Please call 0171 872 5610 for further information.

gifts

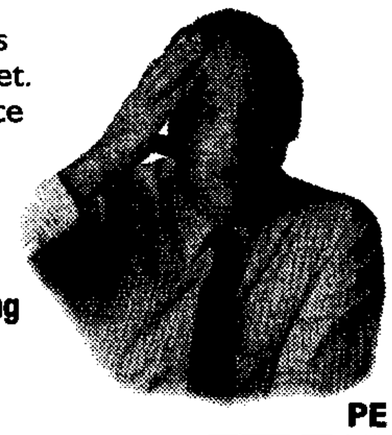
Cartoon Gallery
FIND US AT OUR NEW LOCATION:
DOWNSTAIRS AT GOSH!
39 GREAT RUSSELL ST. LONDON WC1B 3PH
Apparently... HOM SAP Vobs Celeb
Original cartoons for sale - over sixty cartoonists represented
Open 10 - 6 seven days a week - late nights Thursday and Friday until 7.
Tel: 0171-636-1011 Fax: 0171-436-5053
e-mail: cartoongallery@easynet.co.uk

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS
From largest archives saved from the past. Printed between 1642-1999. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch.
REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road
South Croydon
CR2 6EU.
PE
0181 763 6363

ANY RECORD
YOU'VE EVER WANTED
COULD BE YOURS!
BEANOS
THE LARGEST SECOND - HAND RECORD STORE IN EUROPE
MIDDLE STREET, CROYDON
SOUTH LONDON
MAIL ORDER SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE - 0181 680 1202
E-mail beanos@easynet.co.uk

surveillance

DISCREET **SURVEILLANCE** EQUIPMENT
ENDS UNCERTAINTY!
Whether it's commercial or personal, disloyalty can have catastrophic results. Fortunately there is now a remedy.
Lorraine Electronics provide personal advice that's dependable, reliable and more importantly, discreet. You can write or telephone in confidence for advice or simply to request a free catalogue.



■ UHF Crystal Controlled Room and Telephone Transmitters ■ Body Wires and Wire Taps ■ Radio and Computer Controlled Systems ■ Specialist Receivers and Recorders ■ Recording and Transmitting Briefcases ■ Counter Surveillance Equipment
LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW
PE
0181-558 4226
PROTECTING YOUR BEST INTERESTS FAX 0181 558 1338 http://www.lorraine.co.uk
NEW LONDON SHOWROOMS:
59 South Audley Street, Mayfair, W1Y 5FB 27 Conduit Street, (Bond Street), W1R 9TA

virtual services

the
VIRTUAL OFFICE
0171 917 2917
211 Piccadilly
London W1V 9LD

Give our girls a call
- Bright, professional receptionists.
- Calls answered in your company name and redirected.
- Nationwide business addresses.
- Full range of business support services.
- Conference room facilities and full secretarial support.

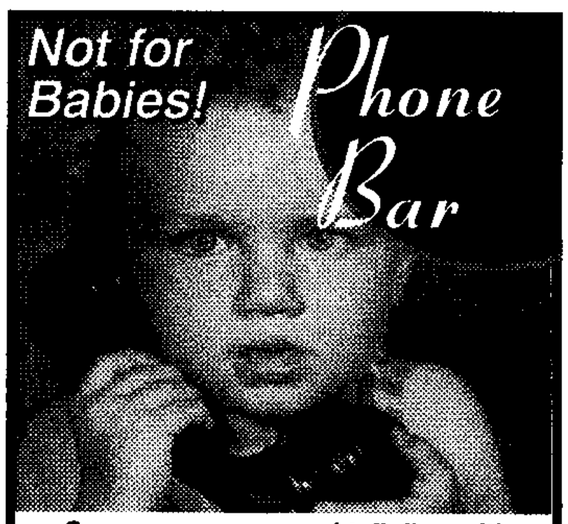
services

LONDON CONVEYANCING AT PROVINCIAL RATES
eg £300 plus VAT and disbursements for a purchase price of less than £150,000. Please telephone Peter Brooks for further details.
Bevans solicitors
Grove House
Grove Road
Bristol
BS6 6UL
Tel: 0117 923 7249
Fax 0117 923 7253

the Phone Café
24 HRS

WHERE ALL THE WOMEN ARE GENUINE CALLERS
DON'T GET MONKEYED AROUND
0891 30 31 71
Calls cost 60p/min at all times
TPC. Box No 28. 93 Cowcross St. London. EC1M 6BH

Not for Babies! Phone Bar



Swap messages and talk live with other callers, 24 hrs a day. At least 20 women on line, up to 80 at busy times!
09066 144
Calls cost 60p/min. PhoneTime, POBox 4DZ, London, N1

SPEECHWRITING SERVICES
CORPORATE • SOCIAL • POLITICAL
Fully Customised and confidential
MAKE EM LAUGH OR NO FEE!
Emergency Speeches Undertaken
Britain's leading Professional
MITCH MURRAY
01624 622660
Access - Visa - Mastercard

drink

PURE FRENCH WINE
THE EEC ALLOWS 27 ADDITIVES IN WINE

DRINK DISOS

CAUTION DISOS IS STRONG!

NOT SOLD IN CALAIS

NOT SUPPLIED TO LARGE SUPERMARKET OR OFF LICENSE CHAINS

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

12% NATURAL ALCOHOL

GREAT VALUE - SO PURE

SW19	NELSON 168 MERTON HIGH ST	★ WEST/MIDS/WALES ★	
SW6	KERRIGANS 199 LILLE RD	ABERYSTWYTH	MAETHY MEYSDD
		BEAMINSTER	CRANE'S THE SQUARE
NW3	SUGAR CANE WINCHESTER RD	BOURNEMOUTH	GRAHAMS CHARMINSTER RD
		BRISTOL	285 GLOUCESTER RD
S.E.	BEXLEY HEATH LE VIGNERON LION RD	BROMSGROVE	NOBLE ROT WINE
	BROMLEY	CHELTENHAM	NATURAL GROCERY BATH RD
W1	INTERNATIONAL CHEESE 21 GOODGE ST	COWBRIDGE	GLYN JENKINS 31 HIGH ST
SW1	CENTRES THE PDE. VICTORIA STN.	DERBY	K&A NEWS 8 MONK ST
EC2	WEST MALL LIVERPOOL ST. STN.	STH DEVON	DARTMOUTH VINTNERS
	CROYDON OLD WINDSOR STRS	LEAMINGTON SPA	COUNTRY BUMKINS
E14	DONOVANS ISLAND WINES	LEICESTER	CHEERS THURCOURT RD
		MALVERN LINK	LONDIS 574339
	KINGSTON RIVERSIDE VEGETARIA	MATLOCK	TWO DALES WESTMORLAND STRS
	WORCESTER PARK DORCHESTER STRS	NEWQUAY	NEW BANK ST FOODSTORE
	★ SOUTH & EAST ★	NOTTINGHAM	CASTLE WINE
	BRIGHTON HOVE YORK HOUSE WINES	RHYL	BRYN CWNIN STRS RHUDDLAN RD
	BEACONSFIELD AREA JORDANS VIL STRS	SOLIHULL	SPAR HATCHBROOK RD
	BRACKNELL GT. HOLLAND LONDIS	SHREWSBURY	COOKIES 49 ELLESMERE RD
	BURY ST. EDMUNDS LONDIS RIDLEY RD	NTH DEVON	BRADWORTHY BALSDONS
	CAMBRIDGE SELECT & SAVE BARNWELL RD	WESTON SUPER MARE	HOPE & ANCHOR
	COLD NORTON COUNTRY PRODUCE	WOLVERHAMPTON	MOORE 508 STAFFORD RD
	DEDHAM GOURMET HIGH STREET	YEOVIL	CERES PRINCESS ST
	HAYWARDS HEATH WINE AMERICA LA	★ NORTH & SCOTLAND ★	
	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD LONDIS 16 ROSSGATE	AMBLESIDE	LUCYS CHURCH ST
	HORSHAM CHEESE 20 CARFAX RD	BIRKENSHAW	MOON ON A STICK
	ISLE OF WIGHT NETTLESTONE VIC'S 612203	BLACKPOOL	CORKSCREW HAWES SIDE LA
	MAIDENHEAD T.C.'S 20 HAMPDEN RD	BRIGHOUSE	CZERNIK COMMERCIAL ST
	MILTON KEYNES WILLEN LAKERS SMKT	SOUTHPORT	RAWSONS UPPER AUGHTON RD
	NEWBURY COLD ASH POST OFFICE	CHORLTON	ST. ANNES WINE
	OXFORD SELECT & SAVE ABINGDON RD	CLITHEROE	O. BYRNE
	SOUTHSEA CONVENIENCE 95 FAWCETT RD	CULCHETH	PROVISION STRS
	STEVENAGE WALDER 10 FISHERS GREEN	CUPAR	SPRINGFIELD STRS
	TONBRIDGE PRIORY WINE CELLARS	DIDSBURY	CHEESE HAMLET
	WEST WYCOMBE STRS 50 HIGH ST	EDINBURGH EH9	PETER GREEN & CO
	WITHAM SAMS 27 LAURENCE AV	HALE	ANNABELLE'S
	? YATELEY SIMONS 5 AYLESHAM WAY	HEATON CHAPEL	29 MARBURY RD
		LITTLEBORO	LAKE SMKT
		LIVERPOOL	TEN TO TEN HARDMAN ST
		MARPLE	BARRATTS STOCKPORT RD
		MOTHERWELL	DIGBYS MUIR ST
		RAMSBOTTOM	FARMHOUSE ORGANICS
		SALE	CORNERHOUSE O.L.
		SHEFFIELD	ARCHER RD BEER SHOP
		TIMPERLEY	S.M. SMKT NR. HARE & HOUNDS
		WATERLOO	BRETTS 119 ST. JOHNS RD
		WEST KIRKBY	DE BARRIE BRIDGE RD
		WITHINGTON	ATULS WILMSLOW RD
		YORK	HAXBY RD POST OFFICE

NO LOCAL STOCKIST
LONDON £58
SOUTH WEST £56
NORTH/MIDS £54
SCOTLAND/STH £58
BY THE CASE
STATE RED OR WHITE
CHEQUE WITH ORDER
TO DISOS LTD.

U.K. AGENT, TONY BOFFEY, 0161 428 7666.
DISOS LTD., DISOS BUSINESS CENTRE,
50 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, GATLEY SK8 4PF

BUY TODAY!

TELL JOHN, DAVE, MIKE & SUE, SAM & CHRIS TOO!

DRY FRUITY WHITE - SMOOTH STRONG RED

ZYDOT

One hour after drinking Euro Blend, your urine may be pure for 4 to 5 hours

AVAILABLE AT GOOD STOCKISTS

For details call
01525 370 702

WWW.ZYDOT.COM

television

BBC ROYAL WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Where were you and what were you doing?

Were you actually involved in any way when the Queen Mother, the Queen, Princess Margaret or the Queen's children married?

Did you celebrate? Did you catch the moments on film or video?

Perhaps you chose not to celebrate but did something equally momentous?

If you have a fascinating story, be it poignant or humorous, for a BBC documentry, please ring Louise on 0171 887 7590

health

Regent's Park Clinic

Sexual Health Clinic
Viagra available - Impotence Helpline - 09068 172323
HIV results 15 min. - HIV Helpline - 09068 172316
184 Gloucester Place, London NW1 6DS - 0171-402 2208
Open 7 days a week

fashion

Black Leather Long Duster Coat (M/F). All sizes

Removable Lining
and Storm Collar.
Excellent Quality.
Refund if not Satisfied.
£299.99 (Post free mainland)

Chqs payable to
B.B.S.
Send to B.B.S.
P.O.Box 66
Scarborough,
North Yorks
YO12 7YJ

Credit Card
Orders ring
01723 372432
Anytime
S.A.E for
Brochure

*Thinking about advertising on the special**EYE**s pages?*

Call 0171-354 5676 for further information.

Or e-mail us on

speyes@madibell.demon.co.uk

Madison Bell Ltd

meeting people

SIRIUS Synergy
Creating People Chemistry

Recently featured on *National Television!*

Club Sirius the Introduction Agency for the intelligent, articulate and well educated. 10,000 members nation-wide must be right! Choose from our entire database before you decide. Enjoy over 200 events and holidays. Call for a Free Information Pack on 0800 542 3000 8:30am - 10:30pm seven days a week or write to FREEPOST 305 London EC1B 1SY
Visit our Website http://www.clubsirius.com

PRIVATE EYE SMALLS

CLASSIFIED LINAGE ADVERTISEMENTS
10 word minimum
£1.75 per word personal, inc. vat
£2.25 per word business, inc. vat
Bordering £10, Box Number £8

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: March 19th
20 Orange Street, London WC2H 7EW
E-mail: privateeye@madibell.demon.co.uk

0171 354 5386

QUOTE

I was recently leafing through some jumpers in a Welsh wool shop when a man immediately spotted me and said to his wife, "Oh look, it's him, Men Behaving Badly*". How galling to be mistaken for a television programme! I trust one day I'm not mistaken for* Ski Sunday*...*
PAUL MERTON,
Sunday Telegraph Magazine.

EYE SAY

SWALES – HAS HE A CURE for unemployment? Or is he just another Oxbridge wanker? See www.faxfn.org

SUPPORT GIBRALTAR
boycott Spanish holidays
and goods
until they open the border fully.

ORANGES AND LEMONS say the bells of St Clement's. Website: www.opus1.com/webstacks/congoweb8

SATANIC WITCHCRAFT caused August 1997 Paris car crash. At last the truth. For information Box 1072.

IF
TAKEN FROM LIFE
radical PR for the rich and privileged
rule 1
BE PROUD OF YOUR EXCESS
www.breadhead.co.uk

ONCE BITTEN, twice shy. I love you. Love always. DREAMER.

CANNABIS. Crimes against Humanity. Free information: FREEPOST, PO Box 12, Tenby, SA70 7ZZ.

SPEECHWRITING by Mitch Murray – see page 30...

MI5 PERSECUTION,
BBC Newscasters
Spying on my Home
www.five.org.uk

www.lovenet.co.uk wink wink!

EYE NOVELTIES

PARAGLIDING TANDEM FLIGHT gift vouchers: £29. Paragliding FUNDAYS: £69. Experience soaring with the birds!! Ex-COUNTRY – telephone 01457 877773.

MARQUIS DE SADE
DINING FURNITURE
for the discerning masochist.
10% discount with this ad!
Telephone
01256 862353.

PERSONALISED 12-MONTH wall-mounted EVENT PLANNER with colour photographs, messages and reminders. Ideal birthday present to those who forget yours! Details: 01473 668856 (24 hrs).

MUSICAL FLATULENCE! 19 tracks of Genuine Petomania – www.mrmethane.com

CELEBRATING
a special
ANNIVERSARY
OR BIRTHDAY?
Beautifully boxed fine
OLD CALVADOS 1896-1996
Mother's Rouen!
Tel: 01787 313745
Fax: 01787 313913

BIRTHDAY DUE? Original newspaper dated actual birthdate. £19 – 0171 726 2626.

BIRTHDAY / ANNIVERSARY newspapers – FREEPHONE 0800 906609.

TITLE PLUS LAND for £10. HONEST! Details: SURVIVAL, 'Norcot', Lybster, Caithness, KW3 6AQ.

BUNTING
BY THE MILE
Patriotic or carnival colours.
Don't delay – we're getting busy.
FABWORKS
Telephone 01924 466031.

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING printed onto a t-shirt or mousemat. A.P.P.S., 26 Thurnham St, Lancaster LA1 1XU. 01524 841286 – www.apps-uk.com (bulk/trade enquiries welcome).

BESPOKE CROSSWORDS
personalised crosswords
for special occasions.
Details from
01484 684902

CARICATURES FROM PHOTO'S and life for special occasions. Tel: 01327 359213.

"MERDE IL PLEUT" umbrellas £19.99 inc. p&p – OVERHEADS, 1 Wick Close, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 2NQ. Telephone 01235 526622.

ARIES – SIGN OF THE RAM
A Superb Nodding Ornamental Ram
in lifelike textured resin.
A Unique Gift for your favourite
ARIEN'S BIRTHDAY
Immediate delivery – £15 inc. p&p
Cheques. PO's to
THE DERBYSHIRE RAM
PO Box 5132
Derby DE73 1ZD

PERSONALISED BEER – your message PRINTED ON THE LABEL. £13.90 – 3 fi litre bottles, presentation boxed, DELIVERED – 01505 850267.

CARICATURES FROM PHOTOS. The ultimate personalised gift. DAVE BAXTER – 01227 362893.

TITLES – LORD, LADY, etc. Tel: Fax 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

LEGAL TITLES AVAILABLE
Sir, Lord, Baron etc.
ENGLISH MANOR TITLES
01803 858644

BALLOON FLIGHTS Berks – Hants – Herts – Oxon – Surrey & over London! £115 – Adventure Balloons 01252 844222.

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE
your unique message
printed on the label
delivered NEXTDAY nationwide £28
0181 675 9494.

FLYING, GLIDING, helicopters, motor racing, rallying, vintage aircraft, ballooning, simulators, skydiving. Introductory GIFT VOUCHERS from £55 valid 100+ locations nationwide. FREE BROCHURE: ACORNE SPORTS – 01494 451703.

0800-CHAMPAGNE LTD
(0800-242 672)
Gift-wrapped
delivered nationwide.

EYE READ

US BOOKS – US PRICES + audio, video, software – www.bookstore.co.uk – or phone 01494 882252.

'MAD IN ENGLAND'
is
Satire Most Foul
For 'orrible details contact
NEW MILLENNIUM
on 0171 582 1477.

FOURTH WORLD REVIEW. For thinking radicals. Sample: 24 Abercorn Place, NW8 9XP.

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS FOUND no obligation to purchase 01376 562334.

"THE DISCIPLINE ARCHIVE": detailed account of college CP, £13.55 – SPIRAL OAK(PE), PO 13991, Edinburgh, EH16 6WD, or CCs on 0131 664 3326

EYE HEAR

JUKEBOX HIRE for parties. Wide 7" vinyl and/or CD selection. Delivered/collected. From £116 – 0181 318 2852.

EYE WEAR

COUNSELLING, PHOTO and luxury DRESSING SERVICE for TVs and cross-dressers. Overnight stay if necessary. Phone for appointment: SABRINA (Eastbourne) 01323 649142. Mobile 0410 667674.

EYE SELL

RADIO CONTROLLED watches and clocks. Phenomenally accurate – CC&W 0113 293 7437.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, get stuffed – at RICHER SOUNDS. Freephone 0500 10 11 12 (24 hours) for your FREE 24 page CATALOGUE/BRANCH LIST or visit our website at www.richersounds.com

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – Mostly £100-£3,000. Shed not shop, telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

LIMITED OR PLC COMPANIES, £90. Brochure: FREEPHONE 0800 526421, e-mail: cosun@drink.demon.co.uk

EYE BUYS

620 EYES – start 1974. Phone 01782 274444. Mr Field, daytime.

EYES SINCE 1985 – offers 0171 497 2188.

EYES 656 TO 757, 4 binders – offers: telephone 01743 874087.

EYES – THE FIRST 30 YEARS. Plus records. Minus #1,2,3,9 – Los Angeles: 323 466 4980.

EYES 527 TO DATE (complete). Offers Box 2672.

EYE TECH

44,000 UK E-MAIL addresses on CD-ROM – £99. Telephone: 01708 454838 (24hrs).

CHRISTIAN SOFTWARE
at low prices
http://www.churchillsystems.co.uk/churchill

PRINTER INKJET CARTRIDGES, Laser Toner, Ribbons. Lowest Prices, Delivery Anywhere. Tel: 0800 389 0678; Fax: 07070 604873. InkExpress@aol.com

PCs FROM £95! – with monitor – multimedia with CD from £145!! KCT 01689 854398 for details.

COMPUTER TROUBLE? Let a genuine PC expert help you with ADVICE, INSTALLATION, SETUP, PROGRAMMING AND TROUBLE-SHOOTING – and save yourself some big headaches. Call TOBY on 0171 229 3001 for friendly, professional advice.

EYE WANT

PHOTOGRAPHER WISHES to photograph WAKE/FUNERAL to show a celebration of a person's life. Private project – no fees, prints provided. Call TOMMY 0171 387 4361.

WANTED
100 PEOPLE
TO LOSE WEIGHT NOW
serious calls only.
Phone 01372 270722

WORTHINGTON CUP FINAL ticket wanted – Will pay up to £50. 0411 606 273.

EVER BEEN CURIOUS
TO TRACK DOWN AN EX?
Channel 4 Series
will help you find your old flames.
Whether missed opportunities
or narrow escapes,
if you can face the music
and take a journey into the past.
Call BEADIE on 0171 855 7457.

EYE HELP

CONFIDENTIAL MAILING address – interesting range low-profile privacy related services and products. 0181 556 2979 for brochure.

A 'VIRTUAL' PERSONAL ASSISTANT to answer your telephone, manage your diary, arrange meetings, book accommodation, sort your VAT? Call CAROL at Farwood Lodge, 01484 441248; pa@farwood.co.uk

SECRET BANKING!
Second Passports,
Offshore Freedom,
Privacy Tactics
QUESTER PRESS,
Box A66, 6-8 High Street,
Bishops Waltham, Hants, SO32 1AB
FREE INFO PACK!
Tel: 01489 890044
Fax: 01489 890055

SPEECHWRITING by Mitch Murray – see page 30...

DEBT PROBLEMS?
Chartered Accountant
negotiates settlements of
called-in bank overdrafts,
personal guarantees/
repossession shortfalls
SUCCESS ONLY BASIS.
STEPHEN H. ROSS & CO,
28 Devonshire Street, London W1.
0171 224 1231.

GENERAL FACTOTUM offers domestic management, personal administration/ research etc on adhoc basis. Please call Philippa Muggridge at PRO-ORGANIZE for details. Tel/Fax: 0171 378 9460. Mobile: 07899 904950.

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS
discreet, confidential
mail/message-holding service.
REGENT STREET 0171 580 4242.
email: hold-everything.com
Forget the rest – we're the best!

CONFIDENTIAL accommodation address at Forum House. Mail, phone, fax hold and forward. Guaranteed privacy – 0181 343 2316.

EYE DETECT

LINK INVESTIGATIONS – Private and Commercial Investigators – Tracing Debtors, Lost Family and Friends, Matrimonial, Surveillance, Photographic Evidence, Witness Statements, Undercover Agents, Test Purchases, Staff Vetting, Fraud, De-Bugging, Professional and Discreet. Operative 24 hours a day. Tel: 01737 844824. Fax: 01737 844688.

EXECUTECT EUROPE – for the corporate or individual service in all legal investigative work. No issue or case too large or too small for our expertise. Tel: 01252 783888, Fax: 01252 783887, Mobile 07887 897785, email pw99ref@aol.com

TIGER BLACK investigations – matrimonial to espionage, 24 hours 0181 352 2220.

MERLIN INVESTIGATIONS – journalism to surveillance – no stone unturned. 01992 767257; Fax: 01992 767277; Mobile: 0802 734489; merlin999@bigfoot.com

SPECIALIST ANTI-SURVEILLANCE – de-bugging – security reviews – investigations. Total discretion 0181 665 5646; 0956 525712.

BUGGING DEVICE. Transmits to F.M. radio. £12.95 chqs/visa – MICROTECH, 8 Chestnut Road, Guildford, GU1 1HG. 01483 570417.

FEMALE DICK – 0181 374 8817.

DE-BUGGING, electronic counter-measures, sweeping, etc. Call it what you like – WE DO IT. 0961 848737.

EYE PROTECT

'THE DEFENDER' – MINDER for people/ pets / premises. 0976 887 765

PROFESSIONAL BODYGUARDS – private investigators, consultancy, debt collection, specialised services. UK and abroad – 0973 502844.

COMMUNICATION SECURITY SPECIALISTS
End to End encryption
Telephone – Fax – Data
Totally secure communications,
Effective counter-measures.
DE-BUGGING SWEEPS
Bug Proof Secure Room Systems
Bug Proof Secure Window Systems
0171 435 0770
ISE ASSOCIATES

EYE CARE

CONSULTANT HYPNOTHERAPIST, Harley Street. Stress, panic attacks, eating disorders, confidence, sexual problems, smoking, etc. Telephone: JESSICA RICHARDS – 0171 935 0023.

VIGOUR (natural sexual enhancement) – 01702 334410.

PSORIASIS PATIENTS GROUP. Treatment News. Free Membership. 29 Park Road, East Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 2QD.

VIAGRA – limp, confidence waning and limited ability... WHY WAIT? 0700 561 8087.

LONGEVITY AND rejuvenation are terms often associated with GEROVITAL (GH3) original discovery of Prof. Anna Aslan. Many celebrity endorsements. Harley Street service or GH3 tablets by mail order available. Phone/write for details: GEROVITAL, Freepost, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 0BR. Tel/Fax 01705 261010. website http://www.gh3.co.uk

BARBICAN (Holmes Place) HEALTH CLUB Gold Lifetime membership on sale for £5280 o.n.o. Box 1271.

ERECTION CORRECTION and Men's Health – VIR Clinics – the original. 0800 163861.

VIAGRA "When a stiff upper lip simply isn't enough..." 0700 561 8087 / 0709 100 1536.

HORMONES DIRECT
powerful female hormones to promote development of feminine breasts and reduce facial and body hair.
Free information pack from MEDICA INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS (MedPE/HD2),
Chalchera Sura, CH-7505 Celerina, Switzerland.
Fax: +41 818 33 88 90
www.medica.ch

VIAGRA HELPLINE– call us FREE 01902 843565 Free info pack.

EYE LEARN

CARTOON COURSE – home study with the professionals. Free prospectus: 0181 892 3621.

TRAIN TO BE a driving instructor. www.instructor-training.co.uk – email: BMS@instructor-training.co.uk

AVOID THAT EMBARRASSMENT of being seen in a computer shop – www.educational.co.uk – UK's largest online shop for educational and reference software – 24 hour secure shopping.

PORTUGUESE SPANISH tuition – conversation A-Level distance learning. Qualified linguist 0161 773 0879.

UNIVERSITY ACCREDITED bona-fide life-experienced degrees. All levels evaluated. 0161 795 3056.

EYE EARN

MAKE SERIOUS MONEY. No work involved. Anyone can do it. For free information send large SAE to F.I.N. (Dept. PE 193), 31 Redcliffe Square, London SW10 9HF.

RETIRE £50,000 per annum guaranteed. Free info. Call 0702 116 2673 (24 hr).

ARTIST SOUGHT to paint visionary's dreams. Profits split. 0181-946 9616.

PROMOTE VIGOUR (see EYE CARE) – 01702 334410.

AMBITIOUS? Looking for a homebased business? Call and just listen 0171 806 7688 – (24 hrs).

NEVER AGAIN be without money – earn fortune from adult dating and phone-lines. Free info: 07000 780794, Ext 222.

CARPETBAGGERS! Get the latest and best building society windfall tips. Phone 0906-995 0022, costs 1 per/min.

EYE WORK

COUPLE SEEK rewarding work abroad. Permanent. Fit, enthusiastic, skilled and motivated – 01626 352479.

JEEVES SEEKS Bertie Wooster. Box 2772.

POSTGRADUATE, attractive, amusing female, seeks lucrative position to fund research and pay back exhaustive student loans. Positively anything considered. Box 2872.

EYE FINANCE

INVESTOR NEEDED to help with marketing really effective natural remedies, oldest in the world – for many diseases usually considered "incurable". Telephone: 0171 289 6108.

COMEDY
IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS
Investors required for
6 comedy shows.
Total required
£30,000.00
Details: Box 0472.

SPONSORSHIP REQUIRED for Cannes Film Festival by talented director – 0171 734 7979.

SERIOUS DEBT PROBLEMS? private or business, homeowner or tenant – we negotiate with your creditors a reduction of debt and affordable repayments (not a loan). Free confidential financial health check. 08000 746740. Licensed Advisors Est. 1969.

INTERNET COMPANY
Established 1994,
financial resources used-up
on product development,
now seeks serious investor with
£60K - £150K
to fund marketing of proven products.
Significant piece of the company offered.
Rapid exponential growth
giving multiple return.
Tel: 0181 286 2292
or 001 727 530 1009
for details.

EXCITING INDEPENDENT FILM project, with major British talent attached, nearing pre-production, excellent worldwide potential, seek serious investors. Call 0958 646173 for details.

EYE NEED

DARIER DISEASE mother needs help. Barclays sort-code 20 47 34, Account 30390992.

ADVICE/OPINION, accountancy/legal desperately sought (not money). Decent chap ruined by 14 year Chancery dispute. Can it end? Despairing. Box 3172.

STRUGGLING POET desperately seeks donations in order to fully realise his vision. Halifax 11-14-45, 00025985.

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENT needs £3250 to clear debts/overdraft. Please help. Don't want to sell camera equipment. Royal Bank Scotland 83-19-15, 00229979.

HOMELESS GIRL wants to go to Mongolia. Help! Halifax 11-05-59, 00814713.

SELF TAUGHT COMPOSER hungry to develop. Donations please to Natwest 60-80-09, 36143863.

THOUGHT OF BEING INVOLVED in making/being in a short film? Our last film was on TV – shortlisted for BAFTA. Need sponsors: 07771 737620.

STATION X
£1.5 million needed in 1999
to preserve
BLETCHLEY PARK
Around £1 for every minute
WW2 was shortened
with the help of our famous
cryptography and intelligence gathering.
Donations hotline:
01604 700262
www.bletchleypark.org.uk

SINGLE FATHER, divorce cost everything, seeks £4,200 or any help to restart previously successful business. Thank you. Halifax 11-08-63, 00769165.

I HAVE ALWAYS WORKED, yet find myself desperate. Former partner has left me with terrifying debt. Scared. Final straw. Please help. Box 3272.

RATBAG EX LEFT ME owing £30,000. Please help! No gift too small. First Direct: 40-47-86, 20813907.

REGISTERED CHARITY caring for disabled youngsters needs over £20,000 for a lift and equipment. Please help. FARISHTEH TRUST – tel: 0181 524 8350. A/C No: 6502262550 (08-92-90).

ANY ANGELS OUT THERE? New and exciting, but underfunded, commercial gallery venture needs £15,000 loan. Can you help? Box 0571.

RETIRED GENTLEMAN
seeks £8000 for world travel, thanks.
Lloyds 30-93-56, 1514585.

DRUMMER INABITOFA – paradiddle! Chronic arm injury requires surgery (N.H.S. waiting)? Need £3,600 urgent treatment. Please help. Halifax 11-06-78, 00516280, Thanks.

DESPERATE TO MOVE wife and small daughter away from neighbours from hell. £2500 pays expenses. Any amount helps. TSB 779507, 78847850. Thank you.

CARER – HELPED OTHERS, seeks help. Behind on payments. Eviction looms. I have skills for imaginative employer. £2,000 would make a huge difference – £5000 would clear debt – any more a bonus... HELP ME RETAIN MY PRIDE. Please come to my aid. Contact Box 3272.

HELP. DIVORCED LADY sinking under weight of three loans and maximum overdraft. All help appreciated. Co-operative 08 93 00, 16230880.

DECREPIT DESPERATE damsel desireth rural abode gift or loan, Mandelson rates. Barclays 20-09-03, 70648914. Box 3372. Everlasting thanks.

GRADUATE WITH horrendous debts doesn't know where to turn. £12,000 debt but any appreciated – Midland 40 22 26, 81784064.

HARDWORKING PROFESSIONAL woman, rebuilding life after eight years with alcoholic partner, desperately needs help with overwhelming debts. Many thanks. Halifax 11-11-94, 00091394.

BE A PATRON. £8,000 to finish PhD on medieval courtly dance. You get a printed dedication of the completed book. Woolwich 10-80-02, 02256651.

CATHOLIC – £1000 debt preventing vow of poverty with Friars. Barclays 20-65-18, 30400939.

MAN NEEDS SPONSOR for book of the century. Fax 01273 706030. Bank of Ireland 18522077.

ATTRACTIVE BUT FLAT chested female needs £4000 to [illegible] lift her life!!! Any help appreciated. [illegible]lands 40-38-04, 92116502.

EX-OXFORD DON, 43, after five years of clinical depression and consequent job loss urgently needs £10,000 to start new life with clean slate. Box 3472.

CHRISTIAN STUDENT desperately needs £25,000 for studying. Thank you for anything. Sort code 07 01 16, ac/no 32434642.

VENGEFUL FEMALE – betrayed by perverted relative, seeks financial help to persecute my tormentor – re-build a life. Please. Co-op 08-93-00, Acc 12150207.

MUSICIAN REQUIRES £10,000 to produce stunning debut album without record company interference. Box 3572.

INVENTOR needs capital to develop and market unique and promising new method of teaching foreign languages. World wide potential. Any amount welcomed. Thanks. Midlands Bank 40-05-18, Account 71711466. Box 3672.

DESPERATE DAD with talented dancer daughter, seeks £4,400 fees to complete training at top London dance college. Thanks. Co-op 08-90-27, 12009581.

HONEST HARDWORKING single mum saving for garden flat. Please give only if you can afford to. Abbey 09-00-00, A/C 00050005. R16544915.

FEMALE GLAMOUR model seeking £5,000 to fund three-month trip to try and break into Hollywood. Box 3772.

FIRST BRITISH WOMAN to South Pole. Would the kind gentleman who left a message on my machine call again. Your phone cut out. 0171 720 7760. Barclays 20-20-62, 70879835.

EYE BET

RACEHORSES – own your own racehorse or join a winning syndicate. 01635 578031.

INSIDER INFORMATION available from very successful gambling stable – 0976 730979.

CASINO BLACKJACK – with PROJECT21. Infopack 01344 780259.

EYE LET

WEST CORNWALL– cottage on coastal farm with uninterrupted sea views. Sleeps four. 01736 762340.

ORKNEY
small seaside cottage
close shops on cliff path,
high/low season. One-bedroom.
Tel: 01294 467642.

EYE FLY

WORLDWIDE LOWEST prices allegedly! Tel: 01942 603599 / 680268. Fax: 01942 670868. Agents ATOL holders.

FLIGHT OPTIONS – telephone booking service. Tel: 01432 851062, Fax: 01432 850722, HENRY ROGERS, ATOL 3793.

EYE HOMES

BEAUTIFUL STONE WINDMILL, SE Mallorca. Full info: http://web.jet.es/johnlittle or +34 971 582864.

EYE ESCAPE

DUCKS, HORSES, nearby brewery – secluded country caravan, North Suffolk. Telephone: 01986 782261.

SCHOONER returning UK May/June has vacancies Antigua - Bermuda: Bermuda - Azores: Azores - UK. £55 per day – 01483 534923.

WATERWAYS WANDERING. Historian-skipper, good food, no schedule – 0973 483724.

YACHT ENROUTE NZ seeks costshare crew. Modern 75ft departing Turkey April. Sail/Navigation training. Diving. Ph/Fx 0171 681 1505.

ANGLING IN SWEDEN – unique experience. Private guide for sport fishing in West Sweden – pike-perch, trout, bream, etc. Max 3 persons. 3 days £430 p.p. all inclusive. Ring international +46 32534370.

RELAX ON A GLIDING HOLIDAY
Fly for 5 days
as a
GLIDER PILOT
under the guidance of an Instructor.
The Best Enjoyment
with your clothes on!
Phone
01858 880521.

PYRENEES ORIENTALIS – peace, solitude. Tastefully converted farmhouse, sleeps 12. Brochure: Poun D'enclot, 66150 Corsavy, France.

GOA
SPECIALIST fr £349
32 HOTELS
48-page brochure – 01293 533338
ATOL 3906

FORMENTERA BALEARICS. Designer's house, perched 100m above the Mediterranean. Sleeps 2/4. Free from May/October. From £210 p.w. 0034 619 639628.

THE FULL MONTE VIDEO. Tailor-made escorted groups tours plus scheduled flights to Latin America. JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA. Fully bonded. ATOL, AITO. Tel: 0181 747 8315.

COTSWOLD GLIDING CLUB – 5-day holiday courses inclusive of all flying and instruction. Prices from £285. Tel: 01285 760415 for brochure.

MURDER WEEKENDS and other ideas. WWW.Mayhem.org.uk. Telephone 0181 959 6579 for brochure.

EYE-CLIPSE!

TWO COTTAGES in converted school, 4 miles LANDS END. Each sleeps 7 – sensible offers: telephone 01159 140168.

MEAN AND WRINKLEY present the Original" Cornish Eclipser. Eclipse anyone, anything, anytime. Beware expensive imitations. Send S.A.E. plus cheque/PO for £1.99 to MEAN AND WRINKLEY ENTERPRISES, The Studio, 52-52a Causewayhead, PENZANCE, Cornwall, TR18 2SS.

EYE CONTACT

YOU'VE GOT MAIL! Romance over the Internet. InterMate UK puts you in touch – www.intermateuk.mcmail.com

FILIPINO ORIENTAL ANGLO Social Club – UK intros, partied & events – Martin/Marlene – 0800 052 9551 / 01493 300063 / 308514.

ATTRACTIVE EDUCATED LADIES from U.K. and Overseas are seeking loving friends/partners. Write (Dept PE/9), P.O. Box 4, Goring-on-Thames, RG8 9DN.

GIRLS FROM SCANDINAVIA & world-wide wish to correspond. Free details, photos. WWC Box 78/p, S-42422 Angered, Sweden.

AMAZINGLY ALLURING irresistible Thai ladies w.l.t.m. sincere unattached British Gentleman. Free colour brochure. Thai Princess Introductions. Tel 01562 748600 (24hrs) info@thai-princess-in.demon.co.uk

THAI CONNECTIONS – WAIA approved. Over 500 marriages. Free brochure: 01582 481725.

ASTRAL CLUB – exclusive table dancing in Soho. Fabulous girls. Wild and discreet! For details/reservations: 0171 287 7988.

DISCREET PENPALS – articulate, naughty, home town ladies seeks interesting gentlemen. 2x26p stamps: EPPS, PO Box 36, Dartford, DA2 7ZU.

ATTACHED? Seeking romance? Call David at LOVING LINKS for a friendly chat on 0171 460 7486 / 0181 962 6300. Our information available by fax retrieval on 09093 919291 (£1 per/min) and on our 24 hr info line 0906 550 1361 (£1 per/min). We are EVERYTHING you imagine us to be.

HEDONISM PARTIES. Clubnights, holidays. Attractive, uninhibited, funloving party animals. Couples, singles. S.A.E. Box 24405 London W5 5ZE. 0181 575 2052 – www.hedonism.org.uk

ASIAN PARTNERS. Suman Marriage Bureau, 0181 571 5145 – WWW.CUPID.demon.co.uk

YOUNG LADIES worldwide seeks pen-pals, friends, lifemates. Free details, photos! HERMES, Box 610188/S, 10922 Berlin, Germany. Fax: 0049 30 25299775.

'ADULT CHATLINE' Girls 18+, Woman online, message exchange, cost 60p/min. jcg, bn228pw, 0640 611688.

CONTACT MAG for adults: over 900 photos. APPROVAL copy from: MATCH-MAKER, (S.76), Chorley, PR7 4BS. Or ring: 01257 480155 (24 hours).

BEAUTIFUL RUSSIAN LADIES – personal introductions – exclusive contacts. OLGA EDWARDS, PO Box 56, Hyde, Cheshire. 0161 355 6841 (24 hrs).

www.adcdating.co.uk – Free ads.

PLUMP PARTNERS – National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner – ring 01352 715909.

ADDITIONS – Attached? Yet need a loving friend? Nationwide newsletter – 0181 905 3304, 0181 958 9657. Total discretion assured (no computers used). Featured on ITV, American TV, BBC, Radios 4/5. Established 1992.

ADULT PARTIES and events. Nation-wide and local contacts – 01582 750947, PO Box 2097, Luton, LU3 2ZT. www.club-aphrodite.com

MAKE FRIENDS IN AMERICA! Pen pal club with thousands of members wants you! Free details: TRANSATLANTIC PEN FRIENDS, Box 2188-PE, San Pedro, California 90731, U.S.A.

EYE LOVE

POPULAR BUT BORED ex-lawyer (female) working in Arts seeks diversion and hilarity with stimulating, sweet-hearted single man u40. London. Box 1872.

MALE, 37, London/Berkshire area, seeks unattached lady 18-35, who would enjoy a comfortable life-style and weekends away. Genuine replies. Photo please. Box 0172.

KENT/EAST SUSSEX – neglected attached male 50, n/s, tall, slim, seeks thinking lady for discreet daytime dalliance. Box 0272.

VIVACIOUS ENTREPRENEUR separated, Leeds area, seeks caring unattached lady 35 to 45, n.s, for possible romance. Reply guaranteed! Fax: 01924 480119.

YOUNG AT HEART friendly male, 40, 5'6" – interested in travel, good food, wine, cinema, music – seeks similar lady, Bristol area for longterm relationship. Box 0572.

BUSINESSMAN, 50, KIND and generous, wishes to meet a special lady friend who is attractive, fun and uninhibited – for occasional and regular liaisons with mutual benefit. Very genuine and worthwhile. Box 0672.

GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL gentleman, late 40's, trad. values and nostalgia disposition, seeks the personal friendship of an educated, introverted lady, 32-48 yrs., who has a discerning preference for classical seamfree nylons and enjoys cultural refinement. Midlands. Box 0772.

YOUNG INEXPERIENCED graduate seeks Lady for mutually beneficial liaisons. London. Box 0872.

VERY GOOD LOOKING male, 39 going on 19, seeks attractive girl 18-30, for who knows what – but we'll have a good laugh on the way. Box 0972.

ASSERTIVE, HANDSOME publisher M/39 seeks sleek, unassertive potential childbearer. 07050 210824. Ldn/SE.

FASCINATING FEMALE, 42, slim, attractive, amusing – seeks educated playful male friend. Cotswolds. Box 1172.

OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS– tall, slim cultured man 45, North London based, could put some discreet wind in the sails of unattached, passion seeking woman – any age. Box 1272.

NICE ATTRACTIVE 29 male, relaxed, quietist, wltm good-hearted attractive female, 22-30 to visit places with. Walks theatre etc. LDN. N/S. Box 1392.

INTELLIGENT, FUNNY, sensitive single male (27), educated media professional, into intellectual pursuits, seeks older woman in London to share emotional baggage. No smokers, Tories or people who read horoscopes. Box 1472.

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT Asian female, 35, wltm genuine decent guy. London. Box 1572.

AMIABLE MALE, fifties, traces of wit and culture, occasionally assertive, WLTM intelligent, pleasant female for discreet, affectionate relationship. London/Essex. Box 2470.

TELEVISION PRODUCER, successful, goodlooking, modest – would like to meet tall, slender, witty beauty, 45 to 55, for dinner, theatre, movies, foreign weekends. Anything in fact except watching television. Please reply, preferably with recent photograph. Box 0372.

STRANGE GIRL (22) seeks eccentric male (20-30) to sit in bath of macaroni cheese! (Midlands). Box 2072.

MARRIED MALE, 57, seeks non-smoking married lady for mutual daytime TLC. London and South East. Box 1672.

ARTIFICER WITH CULTURE, 36, (likes to think). Looking for intelligent (25-39) girl for mutual intellectual juicetapping and fun... and possible relationship. Box 1772.

ATTRACTIVE, BLONDE lady seeks educated black/Asian male for long-term relationship. Box 1972.

VERY ATTRACTIVE FIT refined single early 40s lady, seeks very wealthy attractive single and straight male counterpart for sharing leisuretime and relationship. Likes travel, theatre, country dining and sport. No excess baggage. Box 2172.

CAMBRIDGE: intelligent, sexy woman seeks intellectual soulmate (male) for mind-blowing conversation and fin-de-siecle naughtiness. Age etc immaterial. Box 2272.

BRITISH EXPAT (in Middle-East) seeks lady of similar age-group to whisk away to a sumptuous hotel for romantic interludes. Complete discretion if required. Box 2372.

TALL, BROAD-SHOULDERED with a brain, 46, Glos. based – handsome, rugged, sporty, epicurean, enigmatic and laughs in bed – seeks bright, attractive, sexy lady. 25-40, for fun and romance. Photo please. Box 2472.

ARTY BLOKE (28) seeks soulmate for friendship, laughs and cuddles. No Monet fans please. Box 2572.

TALL, ASSERTIVE, successful man, 40, Bristol/London, seeks a naughty younger woman to enjoy the longer evenings with. I enjoy life to the full; film, theatre, travel, eating out and eating in, laughter and the rich tapestry of life. If you would like a fun relationship with some spice then please write to me with your telephone number to Box 4370.

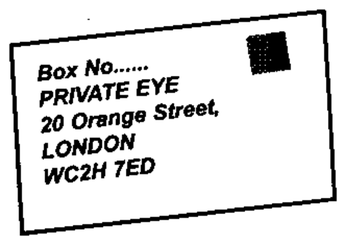
YOUNG INEXPERIENCED graduate seeks Lady for mutually beneficial liaisons (London). Box 3872.

EYE SOLDIER

CAVALRY OFFICER, 27, lovelorn in Kosovo – wlthf eligible young ladies. Summer leave beckons! Box 2972.

ARMY OFFICER, 24, educated, sporty, happy, unattached – seeks female, 18 to 35, for fun relationship. Box 3072.

REPLYING TO A PRIVATE EYE SMALLS BOX NUMBER? ADDRESS YOUR REPLY LIKE THIS



BIBLIOPHILE BOOKS
5 THOMAS ROAD
LONDON E14 7BN
TEL: 0171-515-9222
FAX: 0171-538-4115
24HR ANSWERPHONE
0171-515-9555

BIBLIOPHILE®

BRITAIN'S BEST POSTAL BOOK BARGAINS

EST. 1978

e-mail: bibliophilebooks@btinternet.com

**** 2000 TITLES AT ½ PRICE OR LESS****

A Wide Range of Subjects

A Book Club with no Commitments

Your Armchair Bookshop!

31179 BRICK BUILDING IN BRITAIN
by R.W. Brunskill
This long-awaited book updates to 1990 the development of brickmaking and our technical knowledge of the use of bricks in the past. Part One tells how bricks, brick tiles and terracotta were used from medieval times. Part Two is an illustrated glossary of brickwork in fine detail with photos and diagrams. Part Three, a chronological survey, shows superb photos of entire buildings through the centuries. Line illus, diagrams, colour and other photos. Softback.
£16.99 NOW £8

31189 MR. NORRIS CHANGES TRAINS: Penguin Audio Book
by Christopher Isherwood
Fast-paced and highly amusing, Isherwood's classic story of an eccentric, loveable rogue struggling to make his mark in 30s Berlin. Read by Alan Cumming, abridged and running time approximately 3 hours on audio cassette.
ONLY £6

31140 AMATEUR MAGICIAN'S HANDBOOK: 4th Edition by Henry Hay
Can you turn a red handkerchief green, dissolve knots, pour drinks from empty jars, deal yourself all the aces, read people's minds or find money in the air? This newly revised and expanded edition contains more than 200 illustrations and explains how spectators think and how you must think and feel to make puzzling tricks pleasing. 414 page hardback.
ONLY £7.50

30974 JUST WEEDS: History, Myths and Uses by Pamela Jones
History, lore, recipes - a fascinating guide which will have you encouraging weeds to grow in your garden! Glossary, bibliography and list of herbal folk remedies. Softback 11" x 8". Colour illus.
$19.95 NOW £8

31150 WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD by E.M. Forster
Forster's first novel was published when he was only 26 and it contains all the mastery of dialogue, humour and character displayed in his later work. Praised for its perfection of structure and subtle use of leitmotifs.
£14.99 NOW £4

31119 THE ADVENTURES OF GURU GURUDEVA
by Seepersad Naipaul
The father of the author V.S. Naipaul, Seepersad Naipaul based this rich and humane novella on his own experiences as a Hindu in Trinidad in the early 20th century. Part rural epic, part satire, this is an exotic yet familiar world. 155pp.
£9.99 NOW £3

31109 HANGING IN JUDGEMENT: Religion and the Death Penalty in England by Harry Potter
Ruth Ellis was the last woman to be hanged in the UK in 1955, and no more hangings took place after 1964. If the Church of England had denounced hanging, this form of punishment would soon have disappeared - as it was, it lingered long after progressive religious and public opinion had turned. 292pp.
$24.95 NOW £8

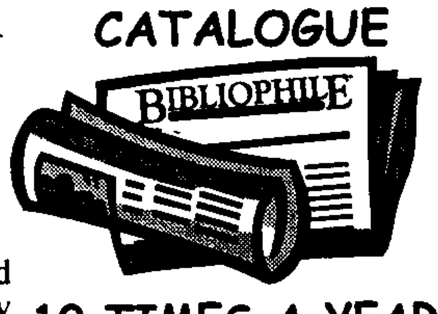
31076 ROBOT WARRIORS
by Hugh McDaid and David Oliver
Today's UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) are truly unbelievable. Reveals the cutting edge of weapons technology which reveals previously little known developments by NASA. Many diagrams in colour and colour photos.
£18.99 NOW £10

31099 ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN: A Century in his Life
by D.M. Thomas
His life story is here told by the award-winning novelist and translator of Russian literature D.M. Thomas. A completely absorbing and often controversial read. As well as the well documented events in his life, there is much detail on his private life. 583pp with photos.
£22.50 NOW £8

31156 CAMBRIDGESHIRE FROM THE AIR
by Susan Oosthuizen
Chosen from the Cambridge University Collection of Air Photographs, famous monuments are included such as Ely cathedral, the Cambridge colleges and Wimpole Hall, but no less amazing are the burial mounds forts, abandoned villages and medieval fields. 118 large pages with dozens of photos, many in colour plus maps.
£19.99 NOW £8

31077 CAN WE STAY UP AND WATCH THE BOMBS?
by James Pilvitch
Through the eyes of the author as a boy, we see the swirling vapour trails high in the sky of the Battle of Britain, streams of bombers going out in the twilight and Stanley Baxter's moving reports from Arnhem. He writes of schooldays and the dew on the grass when he was a scout and tramping out on dark nights when he was with the Home Guard. Large print. Illus.
£16.50 NOW £5

FREE CATALOGUE



10 TIMES A YEAR

30868 CHANNEL ISLANDS: Occupation and Liberation 1940-1945 by Asa Briggs
Lord Briggs has had an exceptional career as historian and in this Imperial War Museum co-publication has taken full advantage of a wide range of contemporary photographs, film stills, letters, diaries and other memorabilia to illustrate his text. Large format 96 page softback.
£7.99 NOW £3

31162 THE CIVIL WAR IN STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
by Philip Tennent
Indefensible, it was situated in what was almost instantly a frontier zone between Parliamentarian Warwickshire and Royalist Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds, thus being powerless to prevent occupation and re-occupation by troops of both sides, often in no great hurry

Yes Alan in. he's behind
his latest equisitions from Bibliophile

to move on. Large paperback. Many maps and illus.
£14.99 NOW £7

31250 CASSELL DICTIONARY OF HUMOROUS QUOTES
by Nigel Rees
Death, discipline and divorce to the vexed issues of art criticism, astrology and atheists, it brings together the sharpest, most trenchant and amusing remarks from shrewd commentators on human affairs.
£18.99 NOW £12.50

31255 THE LITTLE BOOK OF BAD TASTE
by Karl Shaw
First published in 1998 under the title The Mammoth Book of Tasteless Lists, this one is bound to shock, offend, disgust and repulse. Our warning is serious.
ONLY £5

30004 SALLON'S WAR - CARICATURES
by Ralph Sallon
Although he has drawn actors, musicians, sportsmen and all manner of the famous and infamous, many of which feature here, it is for his soul-revealing portraits of the leading figures of World War II that he has justly been accorded greatness. Here for the first time in book form are his cartoons: funny, scandalous, eye-catching. Softback.
£7.99 NOW £4

30509 CHURCHILL AND THE PROF
by Thomas Wilson
'The Prof' aka Professor F.A. Lindemann, was Churchill's friend, mentor and advisor. Though his boyhood was spent in Sidmouth, his birthplace was Baden-Baden, which subsequently caused him problems, resulting in him being refused a commission in the First World War. Churchill, who had long argued the cause for using scientists to explore ways of providing protection for British cities during air attacks, called on Lindemann to join him at the Admiralty. Physicist Lindemann's vast scientific knowledge proved invaluable. Softback.
£10.99 NOW £6

31069 A NEW HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY
edited by Michel Frizot
This shelf bending volume treats the history of photography in a way never before attempted. Over 1000 images in colour and monochrome, through which our understanding is enhanced, this is a truly first class piece of work, and an object of great beauty in itself. 776pp on quality paper, 9½" × 12".
ONLY £22.50

IT'S EASY TO ORDER... List Book Code, Title and Price.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

_____

_____ POST CODE _____ ☐ TICK FOR FREE CATALOGUE PE12

P & P - only £2.50 per order to UK customers. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery (UK)

Enquirers must be aged 18 or over. In order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to status. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds LS98 2RF. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. First Direct PC Banking is only available to First Direct Cheque Account or High Interest Savings Account customers. **LLOYDS**. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. **BARCLAYS**. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. **NAT WEST**. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. **First Direct** variable interest rate for overdrafts of £250 is 12.6% **EAR**. All information based on authorised overdrafts of £250 for 6 days or more per month. The rate and fees correct as at 10 September 1998 but may vary in the future.

Member HSBC *Group*

if you don't enjoy free banking...

Annual current account charges
(annual fees for use of £250 overdraft)

Lloyds Classic	£60.00
NatWest Current Plus	£60.00
Barclays Bank Account	£60.00
First Direct Cheque Account	£0.00

...you're with the wrong bank

Join us today and never be with the wrong bank again

☎ 0800 24 24 24

Call free anytime quoting reference BK942

or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title

Surname

Forename(s)

UK Address

BK943

Postcode

Telephone No

11>
9 770032 888044

first direct

you don't want to pay...

...so there's no need to. At First Direct, the UK's leading 24 hour telephone bank, everyday banking transactions are free, even if you're overdrawn. We also give you a £250 overdraft facility free of any fees, because we appreciate that from time to time you may need a little flexibility.

you don't want a closed bank...

...so we've never closed. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Bank with us by telephone and you can call from anywhere in the UK at anytime for the cost of a local call. Which means no long treks to the high street and no queuing either.

you don't want hassle getting cash...

...so we give you the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from more than 13,500 cash machines across the UK, including those of Midland. It also guarantees your cheques for £100 and lets you pay by Switch. Paying in is just as easy – at any Midland or direct to us by post.

you don't want hassle paying bills...

...so we pay bills for you. Simply call us, tell us who to pay, how much and when. This way you can easily organise everything to suit you best, then forget it – we'll make all the arrangements.

you don't want poor service...

...so we make sure you never get it. Every call is answered by our friendly and professional Banking Representatives, who will deal immediately with your day-to-day banking needs. And they are supported by specialists ready to help with all of your more complex banking requirements.

you don't want restricted access...

...so we offer you PC Banking too, at no additional cost. With our free software you can access your account via our private, secure online network 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Online, you simply do your own banking - pay bills, check your balance, apply to open accounts, transfer funds and view transactions - and you can send us messages too.

you don't want to have to shop around...

...so we make sure you don't have to. You have access to a comprehensive range of direct banking services. These include a no annual fee Visa Card, a range of saving and borrowing opportunities, a no gimmicks home finance service, along with insurance and travel services.

you don't want hassle moving...

...so we make it simple to open an account, transfer your salary and other banking transactions. You'll find that as a member of the HSBC Group, one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, we provide the best service to our 850,000 customers from day one. And it's easy to find out more about 24 hour banking – call free now on **0800 24 24 24**, complete the coupon or visit our website at **www.firstdirect.co.uk**.

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle St, London W1 5RG. 0171 437 4017. Printed by East End Offset Ltd, Empson St, London E3 3LT. Distributed by P. E. Distribution Ltd, Mortimer Hse, 230/236 Lavender Hill, SW11 1LE 0171 223 9971